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Comment Received From: Dietmar Detering, PhD
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CA needs Diablo Canyon

Allowing Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant to operate beyond 2025 is the right choice for California and the world:

- The plant is safe: Intensive studies have shown that the plant would withstand earthquakes and other violent events. Instead of following the science, however, anti-nuclear activists spread scare-scenarios that create fear in the general public. This fear of nuclear power is real, and totally rational given omni-present anti-nuclear narratives in media and culture. However, artificially-created fear should not guide your decision. California should instead carefully evaluate all options and alternatives.
- The once-through cooling cycle sounds harmful to aquatic life. However, it is difficult to argue environmental harms when one finds, right outside the power plant, a rich and diverse aquatic ecosystem that shows no signs of harm, but, on the contrary, increases overall biodiversity in this section of California's coast due to elevated water temperature. If Diablo Canyon operates continuously, this ecosystem continues to thrive. Diablo Canyon's cooling system ecosystem impacts are incomparable to those of other powerplants that also benefit from extended permits for once-through systems: Their power systems and heat discharges fluctuate along with market conditions for electricity and expose their ecosystems to alternating temperature shocks.
- Nuclear power is possibly the only human activity that fully accounts for its entire waste stream. Nuclear waste from power plants has never harmed anyone. While it is, like many other man-made substances, toxic, it is not harmful since we know how to handle it safely. This is not the case with CO₂, which is harmful and invisible, yet we just dump it into the air.
- Global warming is real, as Californians can attest first-hand considering wildfires, heat waves, storm threats, and droughts, and this is just the beginning. Continued operation of Diablo Canyon will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Stubbornly insisting on shutting down this plant despite rising evidence of real physical challenges and delays of the alternative, solar and wind-only path to decarbonization, is akin to climate-denial.
- Californians know the costs of an unreliable electricity grid. Losing Diablo Canyon's steady and reliable power will increase the risk of blackouts.
- Californians pay some of the highest electricity rates in the nation. Continued operation of Diablo Canyon, however, would save \$2.6 Billion in power system costs by 2035 and could save Californians a total of \$21 Billion if operated till 2045 and beyond.

Governor Gavin Newsom's reconsideration of Diablo Canyon's value for California and our planet opens the door for an important course correction. I hope California is making use of this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Dietmar Detering, PhD