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*Comment Received From: Lee
Submitted On: 8/11/2022
Docket Number: 21-ESR-01*

Keeping Diablo Open is not safe

California Energy Commission
Office of Governor Newsom

Re: Discussion of California's energy situation and potentially extending the operating license of Diablo Power Plant.

I live in Atascadero CA, a short distance as the crow flies from the 34 year old Diablo Power Plant. I have staunch reservations about Diablo Nuclear Plant (DNP) because of the lack of safe waste disposal on site over the long term and the unreliable condition of the plant.

Diablo is one of the plants built in the 1960's, innovative when built (except for the waste) but then it seems the Federal Government or private corporate entities did not continue research into disposing of the waste, monitoring the privately owned nuclear power plants or upkeep, maintenance and conservation. Most of these nuclear plants have closed for safety and/or non-profitability. PG&E opted to close Diablo in 2013 for these reasons and the questionable argument California's energy regulations were giving renewables priority over nuclear.

PG&E stated the operating licenses for Diablo Canyon Units 1 and 2 would not be renewed when expired on November 2, 2024 and August 26, 2025, respectively. PG&E's application to close Diablo Canyon, including the Joint Proposal, was approved and codified by the CPUC in January 2018. In February, PG&E withdrew its application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a licensing extension. KCBX reported January 12, 2020, Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant which cost billions to build five decades ago is estimated to cost 3.9 B to close this decade. With a start date of 2018, the decommissioning is well on its way.

Referring to Nuclear power as "clean energy" is a myth. The front of the nuclear technology is dirty and dangerous "devastation of lands where uranium is mined and refined and at the back end, we have toxic waste which will be stored on site for decades. Reversing decommissioning would mean more waste to store. Present and future waste could endanger future uses of the Diablo Canyon property. And PG&E has refused to commit to a national best practices standard for radiation cleanup.

It is disingenuous, to say the least, Governor Newsom's reversing his stance on closing Diablo Power Plant. California has set aside up to \$75 M to extend operation of older power plants scheduled to close. This is taxpayer money. And how much more will be needed to keep Diablo running? PG&E is bailing. As of now, Diablo is partly decommissioned and in need of a colossal refurbishing to stay open and be safe which

could take years.

It is ironic that the nuclear industry may now be seeing climate change as a reason for optimism with millions set aside for nuclear plants in California and in new bills passed federally. I believe it is germane to say, it is unbelievably poor planning at this point in time to keep Diablo open. Close Diablo Canyon on schedule, 2024 and 2025.

Lee Perkins
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Additional submitted attachment is included below.

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