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California families need Diablo Canyon

As a person considering Southern California as a place to retire, I pay attention to what is happening in your great State.

I am aware that the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Generating Station has been planned for closure in just a few short years. This concerns me greatly, as I am a strong proponent of clean and reliable energy. I am further aware that the decision to close Diablo is under reconsideration. I urge you to reverse, or at least to suspend, the decision to close the plant. Diablo is a valuable asset to California and the United states.

Consider: Closing Diablo would be the energy equivalent of removing all of the wind turbines in California. This energy would be replaced by fossil fuel generation, and result in the emission of over 15 million metric tons of additional greenhouse gas emissions between now and 2030.

All of this would add to the existing hardship of high electricity prices, a burden borne most heavily by the working/middle classes. People are already asked to power down and conserve electric power between 4pm and 9pm -- a time when working families are cooking dinner, washing clothes, helping their children with homework. The availability of sufficient and reliable energy during this time is most vital to these families. Abandoning the reliable power generated by such plants as Diablo Canyon simply makes no sense in a region, and among a population, already so stressed. This is not "conservation," it is just bleak austerity.

For the sake of the future of California families, please keep Diablo Canyon running.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eric Schmitz
A Progressive for Nuclear Progress