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| Docket Number: | 21-ESR-01 |
| Project Title: | Energy System Reliability |
| TN #: | 244860 |
| Document Title: | SF Bay PSR Comments - California Energy Commission Testimony |
| Description: | N/A |
| Filer: | System |
| Organization: | San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility (SF Bay PSR)/Robert M. Gould, MD |
| Submitter Role: | Public |
| Submission Date: | 8/12/2022 3:06:51 PM |
| Docketed Date: | 8/12/2022 |

Comment Received From: Robert M. Gould, MD
Submitted On: 8/12/2022
Docket Number: 21-ESR-01

California Energy Commission Testimony-SF Bay PSR

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



PHYSICIANS FOR
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER

August 12, 2022

Re: California Energy Commission Testimony
Docket # 21-ESR-01
Project Title: Energy System Reliability

My name is Dr. Robert M. Gould. After working as a Pathologist at San Jose Kaiser for over 30 years, for over the last decade I've been an Associate Adjunct Professor in the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment (PRHE) at the UCSF School of Medicine.

I'm submitting this testimony today in my role as President of the San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility (SF Bay PSR), representing hundreds of health professionals and students, who seek to protect the health of our patients and communities, who are increasingly threatened by our rapidly advancing climate emergency and the serious health impacts of fossil fuel extraction, including severe pollution of air, water and land. As such we support urgent action to ensure an energy-efficient, fossil-free and *nuclear-free* future.

Accordingly, we oppose extending the lifetime of Diablo Canyon to address our climate crisis. Keeping Diablo Canyon open would mean further extending the risk to Californians of a possible nuclear meltdown, that would result in a devastating radioactive release. This is not a remote possibility, as Diablo Canyon was built on a fault line that was not discovered until after the facility was completed, and numerous significant earthquake faults have since been revealed surrounding the plant as well.

Extending Diablo's operation will also produce hundreds more tons of long-lived, highly radioactive waste for which there is still no safe or reliable disposal method. In this regard, we also note that the ongoing decommissioning process has not accounted for the generation of additional spent nuclear fuel beyond 2025, whereby additional high-level radioactive waste being stored in the plant's spent-fuel pools would pose and increasing threat to the environment and public health.

In addition, we believe that keeping Diablo Canyon running will also undermine California's climate change goals by hindering our renewable energy development, and think that it would be far better to invest taxpayer or ratepayer dollars in needed truly clean renewable energy or storage technologies. Instead of wasting millions of dollars extending the operating license of Diablo Canyon, we support using new state funds to accelerate investments in batteries which can provide a useful rapid response to provide extra energy needed for peak demand on hot days, and emergency back-up power if the grid goes down.

In conclusion, we in SF Bay PSR ask that you not risk the health and resources of Californians by extending Diablo Canyon's operations, and please honor the promise previously made to expeditiously shut it down.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Gould, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "G".

Robert M. Gould, MD
President
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility