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*Comment Received From: Al Scott  
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**Al Scott's Comment**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

**From:** [Al Scott](#)  
**To:** [Energy - Docket Optical System](#)  
**Subject:** 21-ESR-01 Diablo Canyon power plant  
**Date:** Friday, August 12, 2022 7:00:40 AM

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Please do the right thing for humanity and keep Diablo Canyon open.

Nuclear energy is humanity's densest form of power. It has the smallest ecological footprint of any power source we have, per unit of delivered power. It uses the least mining, and land, and produces the smallest waste stream. It produces no environmental pollution during operation.

The world's pre-eminent scientific body concerned with climate change, the IPCC, has provided several representative pathways to maintain climate change below the threshold increase of 1.5 C. In all of these pathways we need to at least double the size of our existing electrical grid to decarbonize the economy. In its 2014 advice to legislators the most conservative pathway led to a doubling of our existing nuclear capacity. In its most ambitious pathway the nuclear capacity increased five fold.

Nuclear energy is our safest energy source (in deaths/TWh), and operates with the highest capacity factor. Furthermore, each plant is expected to provide clean energy and stable STEM careers over generations.

Germany is an example of what happens when you eliminate nuclear baseload in favour of a renewable-only energy system. They are now being forced to restart their polluting coal plants due to the fact that renewables need reliable backup generation at least 60% of the time, and Russia is cutting off their natural gas taps.

Fossil gas burning filled the huge gap in the New York grid after their disastrous decision to close Indian Point power plant. Methane leakage from fracked gas production will have a greenhouse gas forcing 80x worse than CO2 over the next 20 years. It will result in NOx smog emissions that are known to exacerbate asthma and will kill some of your residents.

Some people less familiar with nuclear energy will be afraid of a nuclear disaster, just as many people are afraid of flying in jet planes due to a handful of high profile accidents. For example, a magnitude 9 earthquake and 40 metre tsunami wave, combined with poor siting of backup generators caused the Fukushima reactor meltdowns in 2011. So far there are no confirmed or expected fatalities as a result of this worst case scenario in a modern reactor similar to Diablo Canyon (UNSCEAR [https://www.unscear.org/unscear/en/publications/2020\\_2021\\_2.html](https://www.unscear.org/unscear/en/publications/2020_2021_2.html)). US regulators, the strictest in the world, are aware of these issues and have given Diablo the green light to continue producing pollution-free electricity for coming decades.

Please do the right thing and keep Diablo open.

Dr. Al Scott, FInstP, FEIC  
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