

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	21-ESR-01
<b>Project Title:</b>	Energy System Reliability
<b>TN #:</b>	244961
<b>Document Title:</b>	Jane Weed-Pomerantz Comments - Decommission Diablo Canyon Now
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	System
<b>Organization:</b>	Jane Weed-Pomerantz
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Public
<b>Submission Date:</b>	8/14/2022 10:25:13 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	8/15/2022

*Comment Received From: Jane Weed-Pomerantz  
Submitted On: 8/14/2022  
Docket Number: 21-ESR-01*

## **Decommission Diablo Canyon Now**

Dear Members of the CA Energy Commission, esteemed elected officials, members of organizations working for the future of our planet and fellow California residents,

I appreciate your holding the presentation and hearing and revisiting this issue is torture. The serious list of items and questions brought by Senator Laird to the hearing need definitive answers. Given the gravity of the situation with this poorly sited and embrittled plant, estimated expenses in both human and financial resources, and moving pieces on a global scale, renders the prescribed deadline unrealistic and unreasonable. Most importantly we need to get on with the "Marshall Plan"™ as described by Senator Laird post haste and with new resources emerging from the Inflation Reduction Act.

I am a former City Councilmember and Mayor of Santa Cruz. Before that, while at UCSC, my dissertation was on the social, economic, environmental, and political effects of the nuclear fuel cycle. At the time my brother was a Uranium Mining Scheduler in Grants, New Mexico and I had a cousin at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Both, great sources of information.

Many tout Diablo as an example of carbon free energy, the bridge to the green future. Nuclear power is not carbon free, nor green. Every level of the fuel cycle requires fossil fuels. The extraction process is taking place in second and third world countries, likely without adequate regard for the workforce or surrounding communities. A recent data search revealed that the countries the US is reliant on for our uranium supplies include Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Russia. It is absurd to think we would seek to become dependent yet again on autocratic and dangerous global actors. Nuclear power is a technology that must be scrutinized for its fundamental flaws and foundational hazards. Added just this week to the risks of nuclear power plants is their weaponization in the conduct of the war in Ukraine. All nuclear reactors require military protection as they are potential targets for terrorism.

General concerns about nuclear power aside, THIS plant?!

The Diablo reactors should be decommissioned as soon as possible, at the very latest, by the planned deadline of 2025.

-Diablo is over 40 years old, embrittled and its "once through"™ cooling system is dumping nearly 20 degrees hotter water into the sea, damaging the ecosystem.

"Green"™ power?

-The nuclear waste storage at Diablo is reaching capacity, there is no long-term solution to this toxic tonnage and scientists estimate there is enough radiation held onsite to contaminate the area the size of Pennsylvania. How big a quake would be needed to breach the casks?

-Many earthquake faults exist and continue to be discovered near Diablo, the latest is as close as a ¼ mile away. PG&E first denied their existence, then pretended the

presence of the faults aren't a problem. That is a pretty cavalier attitude, with an 40 yr old embrittled structure. How big a quake would be needed to cause failure of the cooling and operational systems? A catastrophic radiation release could render much of central California uninhabitable for generations to come.

When solving problems, please consider their origins!

Governor Newsom is using the blackouts of 2021 as the major reason for needing to consider extending DCNPP's license.

- The information shared at Friday's hearing that the CAISO was actually shipping power out of state during that critical time is alarming and needs investigation.

- Statistically and historically blackouts are not caused by lack of energy sources but rather trees falling on lines, cars hitting poles and disruptions to a dilapidated and outdated distribution system. Let's have a massive initiative to upgrade the distribution system.

- PG&E, as an investor-owned utility and simultaneously a publicly guaranteed monopoly, has a dismal record. Whether the gas explosion in San Bruno, the fires that destroy whole communities and have killed so many, or their foot dragging on distribution line upgrades we have paid for, beg the issue whether it is wise to foist \$1+ billion onto them to initiate this extension for more NP generation. I mean no ill will to the professional workforce of PG&E, but their operations have been incompetent, negligent, and irresponsible. The public should be very alarmed that they may be entrusted to apply for funding and a new license.

- The ultimate liability will fall on us, the taxpayers and ratepayers should there be an accident. What ever happened to the feeble Price-Anderson Act? We are talking about generations of dislocation; it is not worth the risk! The time is too short to get adequate answers to these pressing issues.

### Supplies of Energy

It would seem that better management of our power supplies and services deemed critical is a better more prudent approach. AND we must amp up green energy production.

- The decision to decommission Diablo by 2025 was codified in 2016. We had 9 years before decommissioning and transition would occur. Expansion of truly green sources has proceeded well and we still have 2.5 more years. We can do much more.

- The green revolution is here. We must take advantage of the new funding for innovation and solar and wind implementation offered through the Inflation Reduction Act. The prospects for covering the hundreds of miles of water aqueducts with solar arrays would be fabulous, job producing and support water retention. Consider projects like those proposed by EPICS (Ending Poverty In CA with Solar) and the development of Solar Dividends for guaranteed minimum incomes for those in poverty) at a fraction of the cost.

- The greatest supply of energy is in front of us everyday and with education and a well-executed education campaign to build community spirit, we could take efficiency and conservation seriously. There are many easily implemented measures if we think outside of the box and encourage the public's involvement.

As a dear friend who has been a part of the state legislature imparted to me recently, it is like the Sword of Damocles hanging over central California, the legislature, the economy of our great state and our very future. The legacies of good, well-meaning leaders hang in the balance. This is a horrifying and risky proposition. Let's not be lulled into complacency, deceived by promises or wishful thinking. Abide by the Agreement of 2016 and honor SB1090. Close Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant by 2025.

Thank you for your thoughtful deliberations with our health and safety in mind.

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