

**DOCKETED**

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**Diablo Canyon Power Plant - Objection to extending operational life**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

# Nuclear Free Local Authorities

Councils working for a renewable, safe and peaceful future



## UK & Ireland NFLA Secretariat

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### **Docket Number 21-ESR-01 - Diablo Canyon Power Plant - Objection to extending operational life**

Dear Colleagues,

As Chair of the Steering Committee of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities in the UK and Ireland, I would like to add our British and Irish voices to the many American ones raised in objection to any extension to the operational life of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

The UK/Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities formed in 1981 after Manchester's momentous decision to declare itself the world's first nuclear-free city was emulated by many other local authorities across the British Isles. who wished to express their opposition to the operation of civil nuclear power, the transportation of nuclear materials, and the possession by the UK of nuclear weapons.

After 40 years, we continue to be a collective organisation opposed to nuclear power plants. In our view, they are simply too expensive and take too long to build, their operation is always accompanied by operational risks and leads to the contamination of the surrounding environment (land, sea, rivers, and air). They are also often dependant for their operation on uranium sourced from uncertain overseas sources (frequently from Russia), are vulnerable to attack by terrorists, cyber criminals, or (as we have seen in Ukraine) hostile states in times of war, and they leave a deadly legacy of radioactive waste for countless succeeding generations to deal with.

California has the good fortune to be blessed with a long coast-line and plenty of sun; it therefore seems illogical to British and Irish observers for the state to be in anyway reliant on nuclear power when power could derived solely from wind, solar and tidal sources far more quickly and cheaply, and in circumstances where the surplus electricity could be used to manufacture green hydrogen for energy storage.

There are many reasons why the original closure timetable agreed by state authorities should be adhered to.

The company has already received public money in advance of closure and \$85 million has been distributed to the impacted communities. Looking at the inflated salary packages received by executives of the power company, it is our belief that if they want to keep the plant open they should do so without a \$1.4 billion in further public subsidy (euphemistically called a forgivable loan; in effect, a non-repayable grant) and should instead (as we say in the UK) 'put their hands in their own pockets'.

Diablo Canyon is an old nuclear power plant and it is unreliable. After the last shutdown to source replacement parts, the plant remained closed for a period of seven months during the years 2020 – 21. The situation will only get worse as the plant continues to age. Diablo's once-through cooling

system is now obsolete having been outlawed – what replacement system is being proposed and how much will it cost?

How will the resulting additional nuclear waste be stored and managed as current provision only allows for generation up to 2025?

The plant is also insanely – at least to British observers – situated near to several active earthquake faults and is vulnerable to seismic shock – the results of which could be too devastating to contemplate. The residents of the communities surrounding Fukushima know only too well the devastation that an earthquake can cause to a nuclear plant.

I thank you for considering this submission made on behalf of the NFLA. We shall look forward to seeing the results of the consultation in due course. Please direct any replies to the NFLA Secretary, Richard Outram, by email to [richard.outram@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:richard.outram@manchester.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Blackburn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Councillor David Blackburn,  
Chair of the NFLA Steering Committee