

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	21-ESR-01
Project Title:	Energy System Reliability
TN #:	251105
Document Title:	Alex Dodd Comments - No Extension for Diablo Canyon Reactor!
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Alex Dodd
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	7/19/2023 4:35:28 PM
Docketed Date:	7/19/2023

*Comment Received From: Alex Dodd
Submitted On: 7/19/2023
Docket Number: 21-ESR-01*

No Extension for Diablo Canyon Reactor!

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the extension of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant.

At the core of this issue is the fact that the plant was only built to withstand a modest earthquake. Now, however, we know that there are four fault lines in the area which are capable of producing more extreme quakes. The San Luis Bay Fault, the Shoreline Fault, the Los Osos Fault, and the Hosgri Fault system are all close enough to the plant to destabilize the reactors in the event of an earthquake. A rupture of any one of these faults could potentially unleash extremely dangerous levels of radioactivity into the environment, putting human and ecological health at risk across a huge geographic area. The earthquake issue presents an unacceptable risk to the continued operation of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Such dire potential consequences cannot be overlooked by the CEC, and it must act in the public interest and halt any extension to the power plant.

Also at issue is the reality that the plant itself is unsafe. Being designed over 60 years ago, parts of the reactors' sensitive infrastructure have been described by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as embrittled. Additionally, numerous other functions have already been rendered inoperable or faulty, including entirely non-functioning emergency exits and leaky piping. As with the potential earthquake scenarios, the decline in infrastructure safety at Diablo Canyon poses a clear and proximate danger to both human and ecological health.

Even without a catastrophic meltdown caused by seismic activity or faulty infrastructure, the plant as it is currently operating is harming the environment via its once-through cooling system. The once-through cooling system the Diablo Canyon uses directly harms marine life in two ways. First, organisms throughout the food chain are killed when trapped against the screen the water passes through or drawn into the cooling system itself, exposing them to extreme heat and pressure. Secondly, the now-warmer water is discharged back into the ocean when the plant is done using its cooling properties, which affects the temperature of a very fragile ecosystem and puts it at risk.