SIERRA CLUB
SANTA LUCIA

September 18, 2024

The Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel

Submitted via Comment Form

For the September 18th, 2024 Long-Term Spent Fuel Management Engagement Panel

RE: Long-Term Spent Nuclear Fuel Management at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant

Dear Panel Members,

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club provides these comments, representing the Sierra Club's 3,000 members and supporters in San Luis Obispo County. We urge your Commission to consider, throughout the analysis and decision-making process, the total amount of radioactive waste from Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant (DCNP) that would need to be stored, the full length of time it would be stored, and pursue only the safest known storage measures. Lacking any alternative location, it is imperative that full and thorough analysis of long-term impacts of the potential long-term storage on-site, and priority is given to dry cask storage.

We oppose the extension of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant (DCNP) beyond its permitted 40-year life. PG&E's decision to apply for a 20-year extension to its permit defies SB 846. Any extension of its operation is reckless in light of recent studies showing a significantly higher likelihood of a thrust fault capable of causing core damage and the significant financial burden that DCNP extension will put on the State of California and ratepayers.

However, in consideration of this possibility, any decision on storage must thoroughly consider the additional radioactive waste that would be generated if PG&E follows through with its attempt to extend the operation of DCNP beyond 2025.

DCNP hinders true clean energy, the kind that doesn't leave toxic, carcinogenic radioactive waste that lasts for tens of thousands of years. California's rapid increase in solar, wind, and battery storage is beginning to exceed the capacity of its transmission lines. Keeping DCNP operating keeps clean energy off the grid.

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In summary, the Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter asks that your Commission consider the significant additional waste and long-term financial costs from a potential 20-year extension, consider the potential long-term impacts of active seismic thrust faults around Diablo Canyon, and consider the increased potential for radiation releases in the next ten thousand years if the radioactive waste continues to be stored there.

We ask that this decision-making prioritizes the health and well-being of the Central Coast and California's communities and ecosystems. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Sue Harvey, Chair

Conservation Committee

Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club

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