



*Pacific Gas and
Electric Company*[®]

State Approves Legislation Seeking Continued Operations of Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP)

Governor Newsom signed legislation seeking to extend operations at DCPP beyond its current license period in 2025 to ensure electricity reliability and combat climate change as California continues toward its clean energy future.



In September 2022, the California state legislature approved, and the Governor signed, legislation (Senate Bill 846) to seek to extend operations at DCPP beyond its current license period in 2025, in order to ensure electricity reliability as California continues toward its clean energy future. DCPP currently supplies approximately 17 percent of California's zero-carbon electricity supply and 8.6 percent of California's total electricity supply.

While the legislature and governor have signaled a change in the energy policy of the state, there are additional federal and state approvals required for both license renewal as well as ongoing operations. Consistent with the direction received from state leadership, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is taking actions to seek re-licensing from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), approvals from state regulators, as well as applying for federal funding through the Department of Energy (DOE) Civil Nuclear Credit program to lower costs for Californians.

Next Steps for Continued Operations

In September 2022, PG&E applied for federal funding through the DOE's [Civil Nuclear Credit](#) program to lower costs for customers. On November 17, 2022, the DOE confirmed PG&E is eligible for federal funding and conditionally awarded PG&E up to approximately \$1.1 billion. The funds will be used to pay back a loan from the state used for relicensing costs and will lower costs for customers should the plant's operating license be extended. Additionally, there are federal and state approvals required for both license renewal as well as ongoing operations. *(See image below)*

At the state level, PG&E will consult with a variety of state agencies on development, submission and review of state permits and approvals. This will include consultation with the Natural Resources Agency as part of the new process described in SB 846.

At the federal level, the NRC must evaluate whether PG&E meets requisite state and federal criteria for continued operations to renew DCP's operating licenses. PG&E will provide updated information to the NRC as part of license renewal. In addition, there will be opportunities for public involvement.

Because of pending approvals, PG&E is proceeding on two concurrent tracks: pursuing continued operations through relicensing while continuing to plan for the eventual [decommissioning](#) of the power plant.



Paths Due to California Energy Policy Changes



Diablo Canyon Lands

Regardless of the regulatory path that ultimately decides how long Diablo Canyon will continue to serve California, PG&E is working toward land conservation and repurposing of the infrastructure at Diablo Canyon. In fact, SB 846 identifies the state’s goal of preserving these properties while pursuing additional economic development.

Most recently, PG&E successfully preserved [1,200 acres of land](#) near DCPD, owned by Eureka Energy Company (a subsidiary of PG&E), to preserve the pristine coastline and prevent any future development. The deed restriction also allows for preservation of cultural resources. The 1200-acre area represents approximately 10-percent of the more than 12,000 acres of land surrounding DCPD and managed by PG&E’s award-winning land stewardship program. These lands surround and protect the [Point San Luis Lighthouse](#) from encroachment while preserving recreational opportunities and access to the venerable and historic lighthouse. *(Refer to map on next page developed in consultation with the San Luis Obispo County Planning and Building Department and local conservation groups)*

To learn more about future planning of these important lands, please visit: [PG&E Diablo Canyon Power Plant repurposing \(pge.com\)](#) and [Future of PG&E’s Diablo Canyon lands \(pge.com\)](#).

The Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel has also made recommendations for the future of the Diablo Canyon Lands in its [Strategic Vision](#), at Sections IIIC and IV C. The report can be found here: [DCDEP-Vision-Document_rev-4-22_Final.pdf \(diablocanyonpanel.org\)](#)



Map Legend

- PG&E Fee Parcels
- Eureka Energy Company Fee Parcels
- Leased to PG&E
- Leased to HomeFed (Wild Cherry Canyon)
- DCPD Site Boundary
- Montaña de Oro State Park
- State Parcels
- Conservation Easements
- Conservation Space (1,200 acres)
- Land Conservancy of SLO Fee
- Federal Parcels
- Private Party
- Port San Luis Harbor District Parcels
- Point Buchon Trail
- Pecho Coast Trail
- Coastal Zone
- Avila Beach Urban Reserve Line

Reference Table	
1	GTE Mobilnet (Verizon) Site License Agreement for telecommunication equipment
2	California State Lands Commission Lease to PG&E for Water Discharge Channel and Intake Structure
3	Properties Lease to PG&E: Plant (Parcel P), Transmission Lines (Parcel T), (Parcel L) and Road (Parcel R)
4	Grazing and Agricultural License to Mello
5	License to Mello for Marre House
6	Road Easement to Land Conservancy of SLO County Fee Lands
7	Grazing License for Blanchard
8	1,200-Acre Deed Restriction Area
9	Point Buchon Deed Restriction Area
10	License to Blecha for North Ranch House

Map is not to scale. For illustrative purposes only.

About California State Senate Bill 846

On September 2, 2022, the Governor of California signed [Senate Bill 846 \(Dodd\)](#), which changes the state's previous decision to retire DCPD Units 1 and 2 by the expiration of the operating licenses in 2024 and 2025, respectively, and encourages its continued operations. The Governor, state agencies and lawmakers are taking this significant action to ensure statewide energy system reliability and to minimize greenhouse gas emissions as the state transitions to additional clean energy resources.

“Preserving the option of continued operations of the Diablo Canyon powerplant for an additional five years beyond 2025 may be necessary to improve statewide energy system reliability and to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases while additional renewable energy and zero-carbon resources come online, until those new renewable energy and zero-carbon resources are adequate to meet demand.”

– SB 846

The legislation directs all relevant state agencies and PG&E as the plant operator to act quickly and to coordinate on the necessary and prudent actions to extend plant operations. Additionally, the state will authorize a loan of up to \$1.4 billion to PG&E to support extending plant operations. It further directs PG&E to take steps to secure funds from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and any other potentially available federal funding, which would be used to pay back the loan and reduce costs for customers.

The estimated costs and timelines for design and construction of alternatives that would comply with the State Water Resources Control Board's Resolution Number 2010-0020, Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling, which were presented to the State Water Resources Control Board in accordance with Section 3.D of the Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling, conclusively establish that it is not practicable for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant to achieve final compliance with the “Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling” before October 31, 2030. Accordingly, it is the intent of the Legislature that the State Water Resources Control Board, through its authority pursuant to Resolution Number 2010-0020, continue to impose an interim mitigation fee, such as an interim mitigation fee of ten dollars (\$10) per million gallons for water, subject to an annual increase, that it deems appropriate in its discretion and that does not exceed all reasonable costs to, or incurred by, the state to address the entrainment impacts resulting from the continued ocean water intakes at the Diablo Canyon powerplant after the current expiration dates set forth in Section 25548.1.

--SB 846

To read the Senate Bill 846 in its entirety, [click here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is Diablo Canyon needed longer?

- The California state legislature approved, and the Governor signed, legislation (Senate Bill 846) to seek to extend operations at DCPD beyond its current license period in 2025, in order to ensure electricity reliability as California continues toward its clean energy future. DCPD currently supplies approximately 17 percent of California's zero-carbon electricity supply and 8.6 percent of California's total electricity supply.

Is Diablo Canyon safe from earthquakes?

- Safety is, and always will be, a core value for PG&E and the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. That's why seismic, tsunami and flooding safety was at the forefront in the design of the facility.
- Because of the Long-Term Seismic Program and decades of industry-leading research, the seismic region around Diablo Canyon is among the most studied and understood areas in the nation.
- Extensive scientific re-evaluations performed at the direction of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) continue to show that Diablo Canyon can safely withstand earthquakes, tsunamis and flooding that could potentially occur in the region.
- Read more and find links to seismic studies here: [Seismic Safety at Diablo Canyon \(pge.com\)](#)

What else must happen for the plant to continue operations?

- While legislature and governor have signaled a change in the energy policy of the state, there are additional federal and state approvals required for both license renewal as well as ongoing operations past 2025. Consistent with the direction received from state leadership, PG&E is taking actions to seek re-licensing. Additionally, on November 17, 2022, the Department of Energy confirmed PG&E is eligible for federal funding under the DOE Civil Nuclear Credit program and conditionally awarded up to approximately \$1.1 billion. The funds will be used to pay back a loan from the state used for relicensing costs and will lower costs for customers should the plant's operating license be extended.

What steps has PG&E taken to pursue relicensing?

- On October 31, 2022, PG&E filed its [first licensing action](#) with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for renewing the operating licenses for DCPD's Units 1 and 2. PG&E is requesting the NRC Staff resume review of the License Renewal Application as it existed when the review ceased in 2016. PG&E expects a response from the NRC sometime in the first quarter of 2023.

Will this make my power bill go up?

- Diablo Canyon provides energy both day and night and will cost far less than comparable baseline resources like geothermal and biomass. PG&E estimates the cost to its customers from

continuing to operate the plant will range from a charge of less than \$1 a month to a bill credit of more than \$5 per month, depending on market prices.

How will continued operations be funded?

- Because Diablo Canyon is needed to support statewide grid reliability, SB 846 funds relicensing-related work through a loan from the CA Dept of Water Resources. PG&E has applied to secure funds from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), which would be used to pay back the loan and reduce costs for customers.

Does PG&E have fuel for the plant?

- There is a global market for nuclear fuel and related services. However, producing fuel for a particular reactor takes time. The state recognizes this time constraint and signed legislation into law ([Assembly Bill 180 enacted June, 30, 2022](#)) allowing PG&E to begin the process to procure additional fuel to ensure it is available to support continued operations.

Does PG&E have enough room to store additional fuel?

- The Diablo Canyon Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (DC ISFSI) is designed, licensed, and permitted to store 40 years of spent nuclear fuel. The combination of wet and dry storage capacity at DCPD can accommodate extended operations.

Are there upgrades at the plant needed to operate beyond 2025?

- The NRC's recent assessment of DCPD (Column 1) places the plant among the top performing plants in the nation and continues to find the facility is operating safely and meeting industry-established safety and performance objectives.
- With the passage of SB 846 and direction from the state to seek continued operations, a cross-functional team is reviewing and updating short- and long-term maintenance and projects strategies for DCPD.
- The NRC will continue to inspect and assess DCPD performance in all areas and the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee will also conduct assessments and advise PG&E of any additional maintenance needed for continued operations.

Will PG&E consider a new retention program for DCPD employees?

- PG&E has a team of highly trained specialists who work at Diablo Canyon Power Plant, and it is in the best interest of our communities, customers, and employees that their talent and skills are retained through continued operations. The state has recognized this importance and has included the need for a continued retention program in its legislation.

Does PG&E have a plan to retain or get employees?

- PG&E's retention program has been successful in retaining its highly skilled and trained workforce. PG&E has plans to hire more employees should it receive approval for continued operations.

Senate Bill 846 Passes Media Coverage as of Nov. 23, 2022

(Below are various media reports on SB 846 and the continued operations of DCP)

Broadcast Clips

[Future of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant \(broadcast segment\)](#)

KSBW (NBC) 6:17:08 AM, 2 September 2022

[Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant Plan; Interview with Dr. Jessica Lovering, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Good Energy Collective \(broadcast segment\)](#)

KNTV-SF (NBC) 7:16:11 PM, 1 September 2022

[Flex Alert; Climate Actions Pass \(broadcast segment\)](#)

KCRA-SAC (NBC) 5:07:13 PM, 1 September 2022

[Diablo Canyon Future; State Legislators Approve Plan to Keep Diablo Canyon Open Until 2030 \(broadcast link only\)](#)

KCOY-SBA (CBS) 4:13:27 PM, 1 September 2022

[License Renewal Request for Diablo Canyon Plant \(broadcast segment\)](#)

KTVU-SF (FOX) 6:09:23 AM, 1 November 2022

[PG&E Takes Legal Step to Renew Diablo Canyon Power Plant \(broadcast segment\)](#)

KKFX-SBA (FOX) 6:36:28 AM, 1 November 2022

[PG&E Files for Renewal of Diablo Canyon Operating Licenses \(broadcast segment\)](#)

KSBY-SBA (NBC) 5:39:57 AM, 1 November 2022

[Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Receives \\$1.1 Billion Grant \(broadcast segment\)](#)

KTVU-SF (FOX) 6:43:09 AM, 22 November 2022

[Biden Administration Gives \\$1 Billion Grant for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant \(broadcast segment\)](#)

KMAX-SAC (CW) 6:16:19 AM, 22 November 2022

[San Luis Obispo County: Diablo Awarded \\$1.1 Billion \(broadcast segment\)](#)

KEYT (ABC) / KKFX-SBA (FOX) 6:56:08 AM, 22 November 2022

[San Luis Obispo County: Diablo Canyon to Stay Online \(broadcast segment\)](#)

KGPE-FRES (CBS) 5:39:39 AM, 22 November 2022

[\\$1.1 Billion to Keep Diablo Canyon Running \(broadcast segment\)](#)

KRON-SF (MyTV) 4:25:38 AM, 22 November 2022

[Biden Administration Offers \\$1B to Keep California's Last Nuclear Plant Open \(broadcast segment\)](#)

KCRA-SAC (NBC) 6:39:07 PM, 21 November 2022

[**US Energy Department Announced More Than \\$1B in Funding to Help Extend the Life of California's Last Operating Nuclear Plant \(audio segment\)**](#)

National Public Radio 9:03:43 PM EST, 21 November 2022

[**PG&E Will Get \\$1.1B Federal Grant to Help Keep the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Open \(audio segment\)**](#)

KQED-FM (Radio) 2:03:20 PM, 21 November 2022

[**U.S. Grants \\$1.1 Billion to Keep Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant Open in California \(website link only\)**](#)

KMPH-TV Online, By Stephen Hawkins, 21 November 2022

[**Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Receives \\$1.1 Billion Grant \(broadcast segment\)**](#)

KTVU-SF (FOX) 6:43:09 AM, 22 November 2022

[**Biden Administration Gives \\$1 Billion Grant for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant \(broadcast segment\)**](#)

KMAX-SAC (CW) 6:16:19 AM, 22 November 2022

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KCRA-SAC (NBC) 6:39:07 PM, 21 November 2022

Online and Print Articles

[**U.S. News: California Set to Extend Nuclear Plant**](#)

Wall Street Journal, 2 September 2022

[**Nuclear Plant Extension OK'd**](#)

Mercury News, East Bay Times, By Paul Rogers (Bay Area News Group), 2 September 2022

[**Opinion: They're big Newsom wins, but questions remain on CARE Court, Diablo Canyon nuclear plant**](#)

San Diego Union-Tribune, 1 September 2022

[**California Faces Big Power Challenges — Even if Diablo Canyon Stays Open \(website link only\)**](#)

Canary Media, By Jeff St. John, 2 September 2022

[**Nuke plant to seek nod to run longer**](#)

Daily Post, 2 September 2022

[Legislature Votes to Keep Diablo Canyon Open While California Seeks Other Clean Energy Sources \(website link only\)](#)

Times of San Diego, By Chris Jennewein, 1 September 2022

[Cannabis is Radioactive Enough. Grow it Outdoors to Keep Diablo Canyon's Closure on Schedule \(website link only\)](#)

San Francisco Examiner – Opinion, By Evan Mills (Retired Senior Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory), 1 September 2022

[California advances climate measures, votes to keep nuclear plant open](#)

The Hill, 1 September 2022

[California Lawmakers Vote to Approve the Extension of Diablo Canyon for at Least Five More Years \(website link only\)](#)

KSBY-TV Online, By Kimberly Cruz, 1 September 2022

[Diablo Canyon: Nuke Plant a Step Closer to Staying Open Longer \(website link only\)](#)

CalMatters, By Nadia Lopez, 1 September 2022

[Regional: Legislators Vote to Extend Operations of State's Last Nuclear Power Plant](#)

Bay City News Foundation, By Olivia Wynkoop, 1 September 2022

[In Sweeping Reversal, Calif. Lawmakers Authorize PG&E Nuclear Plant Extension](#)

S&P Global Market Intelligence, By Garrett Hering, 1 September 2022

[California's Last Nuclear Plant, Diablo Canyon, Gaining Longer Life – with Newsom's Blessing \(website link only\)](#)

NGI's Daily Gas Price Index, By Morgan Evans, 1 September 2022

[Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant Gets Legislative Approval for Operation to 2030 \(website link only\)](#)

POWER, By Sonal Patel, 1 September 2022

[Legislature Paves Way to Keep Diablo Canyon Open Through 2030 \(website link only\)](#)

Pacific Coast Business Times, By Jorge Mercado, 1 September 2022

[California Sets 2045 Net-Zero Goal, Keeps Nuke Plant Open, and More \(website link only\)](#)

Electrek, By Jameson Dow, 1 September 2022

[PG&E updates SLO County on 'two-track' approach to Diablo](#)

New Times SLO, 29 September 2022

[PG&E formally moves to extend life of Diablo Canyon, the last nuclear plant in California](#)

Sacramento Bee, 31 October 2022

[PG&E takes first big step to keep Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant running](#)

San Luis Obispo Tribune, 31 October 2022

[**PG&E Seeks Revival of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant Relicensing Request**](#)

S&P Global Market Intelligence, By Garrett Hering, 1 November 2022

[**PG&E Files First Documents with NRC Seeking Process for Relicensing Diablo Canyon**](#)

Santa Maria Times (Santa Ynez Valley News), By Mike Hodgson, 1 November 2022

[**PG&E Formally Asks NRC to Extend Diablo Canyon Power Plant License to 2030 to Boost Grid Reliability \(website link only\)**](#)

Utility Dive, By Robert Walton, 1 November 2022

[**Lifeline for California Nuclear Plant Is a Bridge to Climate Goals, Advocates Say**](#)

[**Biden gives PG&E \\$1 billion to keep the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant open**](#)

Los Angeles Times, 21 November 2022

[**Lifeline for California Nuclear Plant Is a Bridge to Climate Goals, Advocates Say**](#)

New York Times, 22 November 2022

[**California's last nuclear power plant gets \\$1bn funding to extend life**](#)

The Guardian, 22 November 2022

[**Biden administration gives PG&E \\$1.1 billion to keep Diablo Canyon nuclear plant running**](#)

San Luis Obispo Tribune, 21 November 2022

[**Feds offer \\$1B to keep California's last nuclear plant open**](#)

Associated Press, 21 November 2022

[**Biden grants PG&E \\$1.1 billion to keep Diablo Canyon nuclear plant open**](#)

CNBC, 21 November 2022

[**DOE Conditionally OKs Credits to Keep Diablo Canyon Open \(website link only\)**](#)

T&D World, By Geert De Lombaerde, 21 November 2022

[**Regional: State's Last Nuclear Power Plant Receives Hefty Federal Grant to Stay Open**](#)

Bay City News Foundation, By Olivia Wynkoop, 21 November 2022

[**DOE to Award PG&E \\$1.1 Billion for Keeping Diablo Canyon Open \(website link only\)**](#)

POWER Engineering, By Kevin Clark, 21 November 2022

[**Federal Funding for Diablo Canyon but not for Palisades \(website link only\)**](#)

World Nuclear News, 21 November 2022

Radio Segments

[**State Lawmakers Have Voted to Keep the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plan Running for Five Years Longer Than its Shutdown Date of 2025 \(audio segment\)**](#)

KCBS-AM (Radio) 6:35:18 PM, 1 September 2022

[Future of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and California's Need to Increase Energy Supply \(website link only\)](#)

KGO-AM, By Nikki Medoro, 6 September 2022

[PG&E is Pushing for US Regulators to Renew the Operating License of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant \(audio segment\)](#)

KCBS-AM (Radio) 3:22:50 PM, 1 November 2022

[Pacific Gas and Electric is Formally Asking Federal Regulators to Extend Life of Diablo Canyon \(audio segment\)](#)

KFBK-AM (Radio) 6:03:23 AM, 1 November 2022

[Department of Energy Announces \\$1.1 Billion in Conditional Funding to Keep Diablo Canyon Operating \(website link only\)](#)

KCBX Online, By Benjamin Purper, 21 November 2022

[US Energy Department Announced More Than \\$1B in Funding to Help Extend the Life of California's Last Operating Nuclear Plant \(audio segment\)](#)

National Public Radio 9:03:43 PM EST, 21 November 2022

[PG&E Will Get \\$1.1B Federal Grant to Help Keep the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant Open \(audio segment\)](#)

KQED-FM (Radio) 2:03:20 PM, 21 November 2022