


[EXT]Diablo Canyon Power Plant Draft EIR comments

Ava Traverso <atraverso@snakeriveralliance.org>

Mon 9/25/2023 3:04 PM

To:PL_Diablo <PL_Diablo@co.slo.ca.us>

Cc:Joni Arends <jarends@nuclearactive.org>;David Kraft <neis@neis.org>;Leigh Ford <lford@snakeriveralliance.org>

 1 attachments (70 KB)

SRA RE_ DRC_2021-00092_draft EIR DCPD.pdf;

ATTENTION: This email originated from outside the County's network. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well. I have attached my comments regarding the Draft EIR for DCPD. I appreciate your consideration.

Best,
Ava Traverso

Ava Traverso (she/her/hers)
Energy Program Manager
Snake River Alliance

TO:

Susan Strachan
County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning
& Building
Via email: diablo@co.slo.ca.us

FROM:

Snake River Alliance
Ava Traverso
atraverso@snakeriveralliance.org

Nuclear Energy Information Service
Dave Kraft
neis@neis.org

Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
Joni Arends
jarends@nuclearactive.org

RE:DRC2021-00092: Draft Environmental Impact Report

DATE: September 25, 2023

Request to the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning & Building to reject the Proposed Project plan detailed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the decommissioning of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) and elect Alternative 1: the SAFSTOR option, instead.

The Snake River Alliance and organizations believes the current plan to transport hazardous low-level radioactive waste out of California is an environmental justice violation. As the country becomes more educated on nuclear history and the potential future, a disturbing pattern of environmental inequality and injustice has become apparent. California's leadership claims to support underrepresented communities but still enacts policies and plans that have historically oppressed these groups. Even the comment period for the draft EIR was restrictive. The lack of transparency and advertisement, coupled with the short length of the comment period for the draft EIR, presents a direct barrier to public involvement and violates environmental justice principles.

The Snake River Alliance and organizations are now requesting that the County of San Luis Obispo withdraw its plan for waste transport and storage and work to store the waste in California, closer to the generation site. By creating a plan for storage in-state, San Luis Obispo can help build community trust

and take accountability for the waste their plant has generated. While there is no current plan for in-state storage because the moratorium (Governor Executive Order No. D-62-02) prevents the disposal of decommissioning wastes in California, the SAFSTOR option opens the door for California-based storage in the future.

Concerns

The proposed transportation solution of taking the waste via barge and then via rail to various waste disposal sites, specifically Clive Disposal Facility in Clive, Utah, Waste Control Specialists LLC in Andrews, Texas, and US Ecology in Grandview, Idaho, needs to be a collaborative process working with the receiving communities on an environmentally just and safe option for disposal and storage. While there is no alternative option currently for the waste directed to Andrews, TX, SAFSTOR would allow for more locations to potentially come online for storage and disposal of low-level radioactive waste (Utah and Idaho) and spent nuclear fuel (Texas).

There is an inherent moral failing of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. Specifically, it is a contradiction for a state-run facility to create a moratorium that would prevent it from processing its own waste. This situation is the epitome of everything Snake River Alliance and others are working to fight against- the shirking of the nuclear waste burden onto someone else, likely for decades, if not longer. If America continues to expand atomic experimentation and power generation, we must first stop and figure out an equitable, responsible solution to waste generated from the nuclear industry. By enacting SAFSTOR, we can buy more time as a nation to find long-term waste solutions rather than the band-aid fix of passing the burden to someone else.

Conclusion

The Diablo Canyon Power Plant Decommissioning must be done responsibly, correctly, and with community input, given the sensitive subject matter involved. How we handle this disposal now could set a positive precedent for future generations and help forge a path toward environmental justice for all. The SAFSTOR alternative would provide time for further research, experimentation, and stakeholder involvement in efforts to reach a solution that we all can support.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Ava Traverso
Snake River Alliance
atraverso@snakeriveralliance.org

Dave Kraft
Nuclear Energy Information Service
neis@neis.org

Joni Arends
Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
jarends@nuclearactive.org