



ALLIANCE FOR NUCLEAR RESPONSIBILITY

PO Box 1328  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406  
[www.a4nr.org](http://www.a4nr.org)

For Immediate Release:

Contact: David Weisman (805) 704-1810  
[David@a4nr.org](mailto:David@a4nr.org)  
Rochelle Becker (858) 337-2703  
[Rochelle@a4nr.org](mailto:Rochelle@a4nr.org)

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**Alliance prevails in Settlement of PG&E's Diablo Canyon decommissioning bid—  
Gains expedited transfer of spent fuel, lower costs *and* California Energy Commission oversight**

Following months of diligent negotiations with multiple parties, The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility (A4NR) is pleased to announce the successful completion of a Settlement Agreement with PG&E over the ratepayer costs for decommissioning the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. PG&E's original request of \$4.8 billion has been pruned by nearly a billion dollars to \$3.9 billion.

Using thorough discovery and carefully focused cross-examination, A4NR built its case that PG&E failed to adequately address the twin advantages of ratepayer savings and enhanced safety that would come from expediting the transfer of high-level nuclear waste from the overcrowded spent fuel pools into dry cask storage. PG&E had been ignoring both the CPUC's (through earlier decisions) and the California Energy Commission's (CEC) request for expedited transfer.

PG&E planned to keep the spent fuel in the pools—which require active cooling and enhanced security protocols—for *seven* years after the shutdown of the twin units. As a result of A4NR's negotiations, PG&E will now seek vendors that can transfer the spent fuel to dry storage *within four years* of shutdown. As an added layer of ratepayer oversight, the CEC will now be engaged in evaluating and offering input for the vendor selection process. Once the fuel is in the casks, maintenance of the security perimeter and cooling water systems can be greatly reduced, resulting in a savings to ratepayers of \$300 million. As an extra benefit, the physical decommissioning of the reactor units can begin earlier, hastening the eventual restoration of the site.

“Given PG&E's woeful corporate safety record, this added measure of enhanced safety regarding the vulnerable spent fuel pools is a big victory for Californians,” noted A4NR's executive director, Rochelle Becker. “A4NR is pleased that our multi-year pursuit of those concerns will also keep costs lower for ratepayers as we bear witness to the end of nuclear power in our state.”

The Settlement Agreement can be downloaded at:

<http://a4nr.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/011020-NDCTP-settlement-FINAL.pdf>

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