



## Diablo Canyon Unit Down Again

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One of two main units at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is down for the third time. Soon after Unit 2 was restarted over the Thanksgiving weekend after a month-and-a-half long outage, Pacific Gas & Electric again had to take it offline. The problem continues to be with an electric generator component that was rebuilt last year. “Operators have previously taken the unit offline twice this year to allow for needed maintenance on this component, which had been refurbished in 2019 and is located on the non-nuclear side of Unit 2,” PG&E stated the evening of Dec. 2.

After the 1,150 MW Unit 2 went back online on Sunday, Nov. 29, the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility questioned whether the second repair of a key electric generation component, known as a stator, would be lasting, or was a mere band-aid. “Two days later, PG&E has apparently attempted to hose the stator down and its soggy band-aid sits on the floor in the shower,” David Weisman, Alliance spokesperson, told *Current*.

Ratepayers paid \$100 million for the stator replacement.

What is the cause of the hydrogen leak, who pays for the repair, and whether there are plans for special monitoring to catch subsequent leaks, are among the Alliance’s questions. PG&E did not respond to *Current*’s requests for answers to those queries.

### **Alliance’s request for ratepayer refund denied**

The Alliance challenged PG&E’s request for full rate recovery of the replaced stator but was unsuccessful. On Thursday, state regulators approved [raising PG&E revenue](#) this year to \$9.1 billion. Its decision included denying the organization’s recent request to return \$12.5 million of the \$100 million rebuild tab to ratepayers, though the commissioners may not have been aware of the third Unit 2 outage.

Diablo’s other operating unit, which was shut down for planned maintenance and refueling starting Oct. 3, resumed sending power to the grid Nov. 9.

The entire [2,200 MW nuclear plant was offline](#) when the grid operator called for conservation on Oct. 15 because of spiking temperatures.

The Alliance has argued that electricity from Diablo has been significantly more expensive than other sources the last three years. It recently told the CPUC that in 2018, consumers paid \$410 million extra for this above-market power, and that amount soared to nearly \$1.3 billion this year. It estimated that ratepayers will have paid \$5-6 billion in higher electricity costs by the time the two nuclear units are retired in 2025.

— *Elizabeth McCarthy*