



ALLIANCE FOR NUCLEAR RESPONSIBILITY

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## **AT \$4.8 BILLION, PG&E REQUESTS LARGEST AMOUNT EVER FOR DECOMMISSIONING A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AT DIABLO CANYON**

PG&E has requested \$4.8 billion from ratepayers to decommission the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant when it ceases planned operation in 2025. For perspective, in 2012 PG&E estimated the cost to dismantle the reactors at \$2.5 billion and in 2016 that figure ballooned to \$3.8 billion. With this latest escalation, the Diablo Canyon decommissioning is poised to be the costliest such decommissioning undertaken in U.S. nuclear history.

“PG&E’s blunders magnified the original cost of building Diablo Canyon tenfold by the time it began operating in the 1980s—a whopping \$5.7 billion siphoned from ratepayers,” noted Rochelle Becker, executive director of the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility (A4NR). “With the cost of decommissioning the reactors well on its way to approaching the cost of having constructed them, the entire economic folly of power once promised to be “too cheap to meter” becomes painfully evident to ratepayers.”

As a comparison, the similar sized San Onofre nuclear power plants have a decommissioning budget of \$4.4 billion, and their partner, Arizona Public Services, has a budget of \$3.8 billion for the triple-unit Palo Verde nuclear plant west of Phoenix.

Given the uncertainty surrounding potentially billions in liability for the northern California wildfires, it is unknown if PG&E as the corporate entity that presently exists will survive into the decommissioning period for Diablo Canyon. Previously, the utility had been found guilty of felony obstruction of justice in the fatal gas pipeline explosion in San Bruno. PG&E’s earlier decommissioning experience at the much smaller and older Humboldt Bay Nuclear Power Plant was beset with numerous cost overruns and delays.

“PG&E is saying it will cost their customers significantly more to decommission Diablo Canyon than any other nuclear plant in U.S. history,” adds A4NR’s Becker. “Given their abysmal stewardship of our ratepayer dollars, we have absolutely no reason to believe PG&E won’t handle this undertaking with the same callous disregard they have shown gas pipeline and fire prevention safety.”

A4NR will file as intervenors in the CPUC proceeding.

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