



ALLIANCE FOR NUCLEAR RESPONSIBILITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**ALLIANCE REQUEST GRANTED: NRC DECLARES SUBSTANTIAL HALT IN  
DIABLO CANYON LICENSE RENEWAL PROCESS PENDING SEISMIC REVIEW**

Nearly 16 months after the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility (A4NR) requested the NRC to halt the license renewal process for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant pending completion and review of state recommended seismic studies, the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) today issued an order confirming that request.

"It is regrettable that it took the tragic consequences of Fukushima and political pressure from local, state and federal leaders and oversight agencies to get the NRC to do what our state's watchdogs have been requesting all along," said Rochelle Becker, executive director of the statewide Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility (A4NR). "The California Energy Commission and state senator Sam Blakeslee's AB 1632 legislation put the need for seismic studies on the radar years before the Fukushima catastrophe demonstrated the costs of negligence and arrogance."

This current order follows a string of similar messages from PG&E and the NRC issued since Fukushima, asking the NRC to hold off final certification of relicensing until the seismic studies were completed and submitted to the NRC. However, California lawmakers and watchdogs have publicly derided those statements as disingenuous because they omit the "state independent peer review" part of the process. A4NR outreach coordinator David Weisman reminds Californians that, "When Diablo Canyon was first licensed nearly 40 years ago, PG&E's in-house staff told the NRC staff that there weren't any earthquake faults of concern. No independent eyes reviewed those studies—no further questions were asked—and 15 years later ratepayers were saddled with \$4.4 billion in seismic cost overruns. It is a mistake we can ill afford today."

PG&E requested \$85 million in ratepayer dollars to fund the license renewal process for Diablo Canyon, and A4NR has opposed it, reminding the CPUC of an earlier decision making funding contingent upon completion and independent peer review of the studies.

"PG&E should have never filed this relicensing application in 2009 in defiance of the state's requests; they should have done the studies first," concludes A4NR's Becker. "How much ratepayer and taxpayer money have been wasted by NRC and PG&E in these two years only to bring us back to the moment where we can say 'we told you so?' We hope the new CPUC commission understands the costs and implications of relying on nuclear power in a highly seismic zone, and returns the application to PG&E."

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