Background

HBPP consists of five electric generation units. Unit 3, a boiling water reactor (BWR), operated for approximately 13 years before being shut down in July 1976. The reactor has remained inactive since that time. Units 1 and 2 are collocated conventional 53 megawatt-electric (MWe) units capable of operating on fuel oil or natural gas. Unit 3 is located in a separate building, but is adjacent to Unit 2. There are also two gas turbines, rated at 15 MWe each, located in the vicinity of the Units 1, 2 and 3 structures. The five generating units, as well as the plant site, are owned by PG&E.

HBPP Unit 3 received a construction permit on October 17, 1960. Provisional Operating License DPR-7 was issued in August 1962 and commercial operation began in August 1963. On May 17, 1976, the NRC issued an order that required the satisfactory completion of a specified seismic design upgrade program and resolution of certain geologic and seismic concerns prior to return to power operation following the 1976 refueling outage. In 1983, PG&E concluded that the seismic modifications and other modifications required in response to the Three Mile Island accident in 1979 were not economical and opted to decommission the plant. In 1988, the NRC approved the SAFSTOR Decommissioning Plan for Unit 3 and revised the operating license to a possess-but-not-operate license that expires on November 9, 2015.