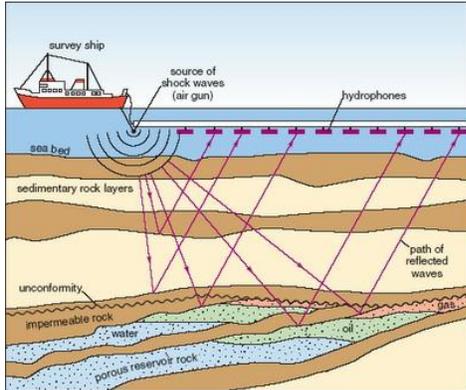




Fall 2012 Newsletter

## Seismic Testing Controversy



Mothers for Peace supports gathering seismic information about the earthquake faults near Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant - *with conditions*. In the wake of the Fukushima disaster and PG&E's application to renew the licenses, seismic studies must be done to learn more about the potential dangers posed by earthquake faults to the reactors as well as to the tremendous amount of high-level radioactive waste stored in pools and in dry casks. However, Mothers for Peace shares the concerns of many local citizens and organizations regarding the extensive harm that will be inflicted on marine life if these studies are carried out as currently designed. Mothers for Peace advocates that the seismic testing be delayed to allow time to thoroughly explore other technologies less harmful to marine life.

The proposed plans for seismic studies offshore and near the Diablo Canyon facility were set in motion by AB 1632, an act of the California State Legislature. AB 1632 is being implemented by the California Public Utilities Commission. The California State Lands Commission has approved the project with the recommendation that the tests be divided into two parts in successive years.

PG&E had hoped to begin conducting these seismic studies as early as November 1 of this

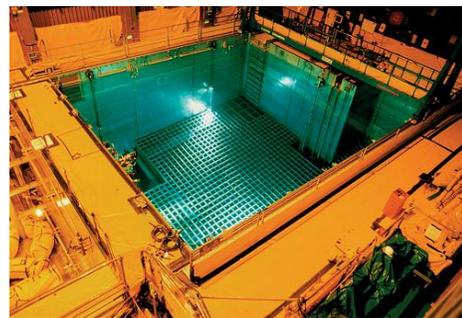
year, but it has requested a delay for the meeting with the California Coastal Commission, another of many agencies required to approve the project. The California Coastal Commission meeting is presently set for November 14.

## A Win in the U.S. Court of Appeals: Waste Confidence Rule

In a landmark decision on June 8, 2012, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals threw out the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Waste Confidence Rule which permitted licensing and re-licensing of nuclear reactors based on the supposition that

- the NRC will find a way to dispose of spent reactor fuel to be generated by reactors at some time in the future, and
- in the mean time, spent fuel can be stored safely at reactor sites.

The Court noted that after decades of failure to site a repository, the NRC "has no long-term plan other than hoping for a geologic repository." Therefore it is possible that spent fuel will be stored at reactor sites "on a permanent basis." The NRC must now examine the environmental consequences of failing to establish a repository.



In follow up to this federal court ruling, Mothers for Peace, in conjunction with 23 other intervenors, filed a petition with the NRC demanding that the agency correct the deficiencies spelled out in the court ruling before any final licensing decisions are made.

On August 7, 2012, the NRC agreed with the petitioners by putting a hold on at least 19 final reactor licensing decisions –including license renewal for the Diablo Canyon plant. In a disappointing follow-up, on September 7, 2012,

the five Commissioners ordered that its staff “... proceed directly with development of a generic environmental impact statement (EIS) to support an updated Waste Confidence Decision and temporary storage rule.” In other words, the NRC is planning to circumvent the intent of the original ruling.

MFP Attorney Diane Curran is currently working with the allied intervenors to determine the best strategies to pursue to push the NRC to take responsibility for public safety.

**Energy Sources Every Mother Can Love**

You are invited to an educational fundraiser sponsored by the Mothers for Peace.



YOU CAN BEGIN **NOW** TO HELP CREATE A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR SLO COUNTY AND BEYOND

**What?**

Wine, hors d'oeuvres, music, and presentations by local activists

**Where?**

Chuck and Jacque Wheeler's home – 3303 Barranca Ct., San Luis Obispo

**When?**

Sunday, November 11, 4:00 – 6:00pm

**Why?**

Seeking donations for Mothers for Peace opposition to relicensing of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant

**Who?**

Presentations by...

- The Mothers for Peace - why we oppose relicensing and what this fight entails
- Ken Haggard and Polly Cooper - local green architects specializing in passive solar design since 1976
- Eric Veium – an energy engineer committed to transforming energy, starting in SLO County

**September 21:  
International  
Day of Peace**

In honor of International Day of Peace, Mothers for Peace participated in Zette Harbour's origami peace crane project based on Eleanor Coerr's non-fiction book, *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*. With the help of hundreds of local residents, 1,002 cranes were folded and displayed in the sculpture pictured above.



**Linda Seeley  
Goes to  
Washington**

Mothers for Peace board member, Linda Seeley, recently returned from a trip to Washington, D.C. She represented Mothers for Peace at the Coalitions Against Nukes (CAN) Rally September 19-21. Linda spoke at the rally and co-facilitated a strategy session for the 65 attendees of the CAN event. In addition, she attended a Congressional briefing sponsored by Representative Dennis Kucinich.



**\$ Funding \$**

Please consider making a generous donation to Mothers for Peace to help fund its opposition to Diablo Canyon's license renewal. Donations are tax-deductible. There are two convenient ways to contribute ~ by mail or on-line. We appreciate your continued support.

P.O. Box 3608  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403  
(805)773-3881

