

Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant: **SHUT IT DOWN**



January's Nuke-Free Statewide Meeting

Mothers for Peace started 2015 by hosting an historic 3-day meeting of organizations working to close the last nuclear power plant in California. Activists from across the country met to educate and to form working groups to encourage future collaborative actions. Because Diablo Canyon's two reactors are considered so dangerous, and because nuclear power is an impediment to the development of renewable energy, there is a nationwide focus on the plant. Topics during the meeting included Once-Through Cooling impacts on marine life, radioactive waste storage, emergency zones, health issues, economic and social implications of a potential release of radiation from the plant, and license renewal. Participants were able to connect, see old friends, and enjoy working together to make the world safer for future generations.



Intervention Update

Since March of 2015, Mothers for Peace Attorney Diane Curran has filed multiple challenges of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) application for license renewal. This string of cases was precipitated by PG&E's filing of several seismic and environmental reports required by the NRC.

Diablo Canyon's energy is not needed.

Attorney Curran filed several new Contentions with the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB). Using the findings of expert witness Mark Cooper, she showed that the energy for Diablo will not be needed by the end of its current licenses (2024/2025) or even NOW. California is rapidly adding new sustainable sources of electricity to the power grid, and advances in technology for storing energy are also rapidly advancing.

The seismic safety of Diablo Canyon is in question.

Seismic expert David Jackson provided evidence showing that PG&E's conclusion that Diablo Canyon will not be subjected to earth movement greater than it can withstand are *unwarranted*. PG&E lacks information about the location and length of the Shoreline Fault because *monitors on the west side of the fault failed when its studies were done*. In addition, PG&E ignores the fact that studying faults is useful for learning about

the past, but does NOT predict the future. Many of the most destructive earthquakes in recent decades happened when the earth ruptured, meaning that ground motion was created in locations where no faults or evidence of past movement were present. An example of such an earthquake is the Northridge Earthquake of 1994 which caused the "pancake collapse" of buildings, and many were killed.

These new contentions were not accepted by the ASLB and are currently on appeal to the Commissioners.

Storage of radioactive waste on-site is not safe.

Ms. Curran has also represented Mothers for Peace, along with two dozen like-minded organizations, to dispute the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Waste Confidence Policy. The policy has determined that storing high-level radioactive wastes on-site at nuclear plants across the nation for up to 600 years is "safe". The NRC assumes that eventually an underground permanent repository will be available to take that waste. Attorney Curran has pointed out that under federal law the NRC is required to also spell out how the wastes will be kept out of the biosphere for the million years they will remain lethal in the event that such a repository never becomes available.

The legal briefs for all these cases are available at <http://mothersforpeace.org> under the topics of License Renewal and Radioactive Waste.

Once-Through Cooling, AKA OTC

Once-Through Cooling at Diablo is killing ocean life! The Diablo Canyon facility uses 2.5 billion gallons of seawater *each day* to cool two nuclear reactors. The water released back into the ocean is 20 degrees warmer. It annually sucks in and kills more than one billion fish in early life stages. In 2010, the California State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) adopted a policy requiring coastal industries to comply with the federal Clean Water Act which is designed to minimize adverse environmental impacts. But the Water Board is still considering whether or not to require PG&E to cease using OTC.

The use of *cooling towers* is the most effective method for reducing the impacts of OTC. Mothers for Peace is partnering with like-minded organizations – World Business Academy/Safe Energy Project and Friends of the Earth – to push the Water Board to require PG&E to build cooling towers to replace OTC.

You can help protect marine life on the Central Coast by asking Jane Swanson to add you to the OTC Committee email list janeslo@icloud.com. You will receive

instructions on timing and content of letters to the Water Board, urging them to enforce California's OTC policy.



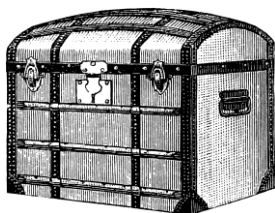
Meet Arnie Gundersen

Arnie Gundersen had a career as a high-level executive who coordinated projects at 70 nuclear power plants across America – including Vermont Yankee – until he reported botched inspections to the NRC Inspector General. Today, through “Fairewinds Energy Education”, he strives to educate the public and legislators about the dangers of nuclear power and the issues with aging plants around the world.

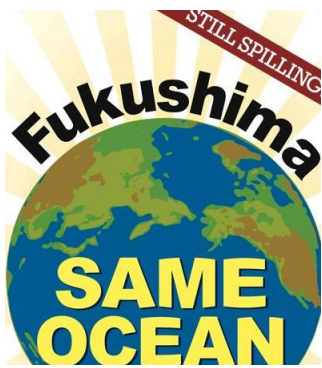
You will have the opportunity to meet him and listen to him speak at Café Roma in San Luis Obispo on Wednesday evening, *December 2*. More details will be forthcoming.

Calling for Historic Memorabilia

Do you have memorabilia from Mothers for Peace and want it preserved? Cal Poly Library and Mothers for Peace are working together to create a special collection that will house a complete historic record of Mothers for Peace. This archive will contain documents, videos, posters, and other materials that will chronicle Mothers for Peace from its inception. Look into those old boxes and files. If you find something you think might be a good addition to this collection, please contact: Molly Johnson at: mollypj@yahoo.com .



Is there radioactive material in our ocean?



After more than three years since the accident at Fukushima, questions remain about how much, how far, and how fast radioactive material is being dispersed into the ocean. Yet no United States government agency is measuring the radioactivity. Mothers for

Peace is working in conjunction with *Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution* to gather and analyze samples from the waters off our local coastline at Pismo Beach. Thus far, four samples have been evaluated (February, June, and December of 2014 and April of 2015). And thus far, none of these samples have shown detectable amounts of radioactivity from Fukushima. But now that evidence of contamination has been found in the coastal waters in the north and the south, it is imperative that the testing continue. If we don't do it, no one will...

Image created by Nina Moore

Reverend Sawada Gyosen – walking and praying for a nuclear free world

Reverend Sawada Gyosen is a Buddhist monk of the Nipponzan Myohoji sect, an order known for being actively engaged worldwide in the peace movement. Reverend Sawada was born and raised in Fukushima Prefecture in Japan but has been residing in the U.S. since the 1980s, currently living in Los Angeles.



Because of his ties to Fukushima, Reverend Sawada is personally dedicated to the anti-nuclear cause. As a monk, his way is through prayer, and he has participated in numerous pilgrimages while chanting and beating his hand drum.

Reverend Sawada walks in the San Luis Obispo community at least twice a year – on the anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and on the anniversary of the disaster at the Fukushima nuclear reactors. Members and friends of Mothers for Peace support his local walks, working together to create a nuclear free world. All are welcome to join him in his walks.

\$ Funding \$

Please consider making a generous, tax-deductible donation to Mothers for Peace. There are two convenient ways to contribute ~ by mail or on-line. We appreciate your continued support of our crucial work.

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Please contact Elaine Holder at elaineholder@att.net if you would like to be informed of meetings or to be placed on our Action Alert e-mail list.