

San Luis Obispo



<http://mothersforpeace.org>



Visit us on
Facebook

P.O. Box 3608
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

(805) 595-2605

Jane Swanson
janeslo@kcbx.net

Who Are We?

We are a local, non-profit organization concerned with the local dangers involving the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, and with the dangers of nuclear power, weapons, and waste on national and global levels.

Additionally, we work on issues of peace, social justice, and a safe environment.



The Mothers for Peace formed in 1969 because of shared concerns regarding the Vietnam War.



We provided draft information and counseling. We held demonstrations and vigils.

When the war ended, the Mothers for Peace turned to other issues. In 1973, we filed as Intervenor against the licensing of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

We became the 'watchdog' organization of Diablo Canyon, focusing on safe operation.

As legal intervenors, Mothers for Peace utilizes all possible legal channels to ensure safe operation and compliance with State and Federal Laws.

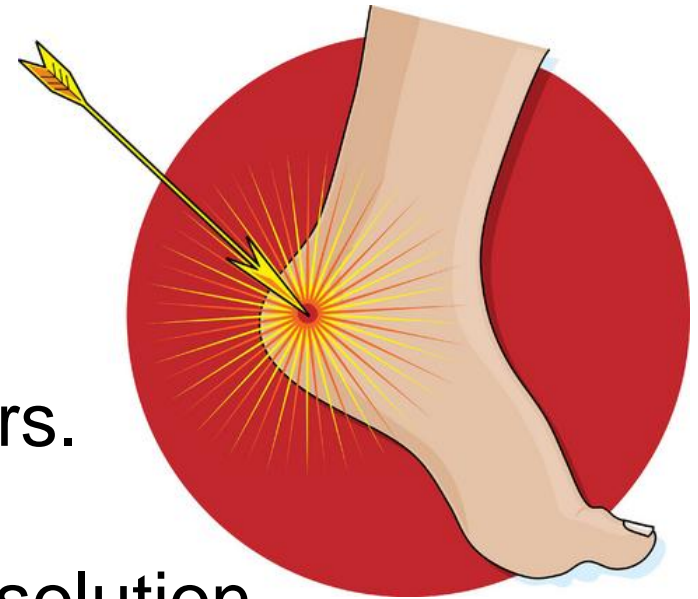


What are the problems with nuclear power?



High level radioactive waste is the Achilles' heel of the nuclear industry.

- It remains toxic for 250,000 years.
- There is no permanent storage solution.
- Reprocessing is not recycling;
the most dangerous elements still require isolation.



High level radioactive waste is stored onsite in open pools.



These pools are:

- tightly packed with a potential for a severe fire and catastrophic radiological release if partially drained due to terrorism or accident;
- vulnerable to sabotage; there is no containment structure;
- designed for temporary storage only.

After approximately 5 years in the pools, the waste is placed in dry casks.

These casks are:

- vulnerable to sabotage;
- designed for temporary storage only.



There is no permanent repository for high level radioactive waste.



After years of controversy and despite the billions of dollars spent at Yucca Mountain in Nevada, the project has been abandoned.

Nuclear reactors supply plutonium for nuclear weapons.



“During my 8 years in the White House, every nuclear weapons proliferation issue dealt with was connected to a nuclear reactor program. Today, the dangerous weapons programs in both Iran and North Korea are linked to their civilian reactor programs.”

~Al Gore, 9/9/06

\$ Nuclear Power is Expensive \$



Conservative estimates range between \$6 and \$12 billion per reactor but Standard & Poor's predicts a continued rise.

Nuclear energy is subsidized by the Federal Government:

- loan guarantees for construction;
- funds for research and development;
- the search for a solution to the problem of radioactive waste;
- insurance in the event of a major disaster – the Price-Anderson Act requires the nuclear industry to pay for only the first \$10 billion for deaths, injuries, and property damages.



The Department of Homeland Security, the CIA, and the FBI have determined that nuclear facilities are targets of terrorists.



They offer “the potential for widespread health and economic damage.”

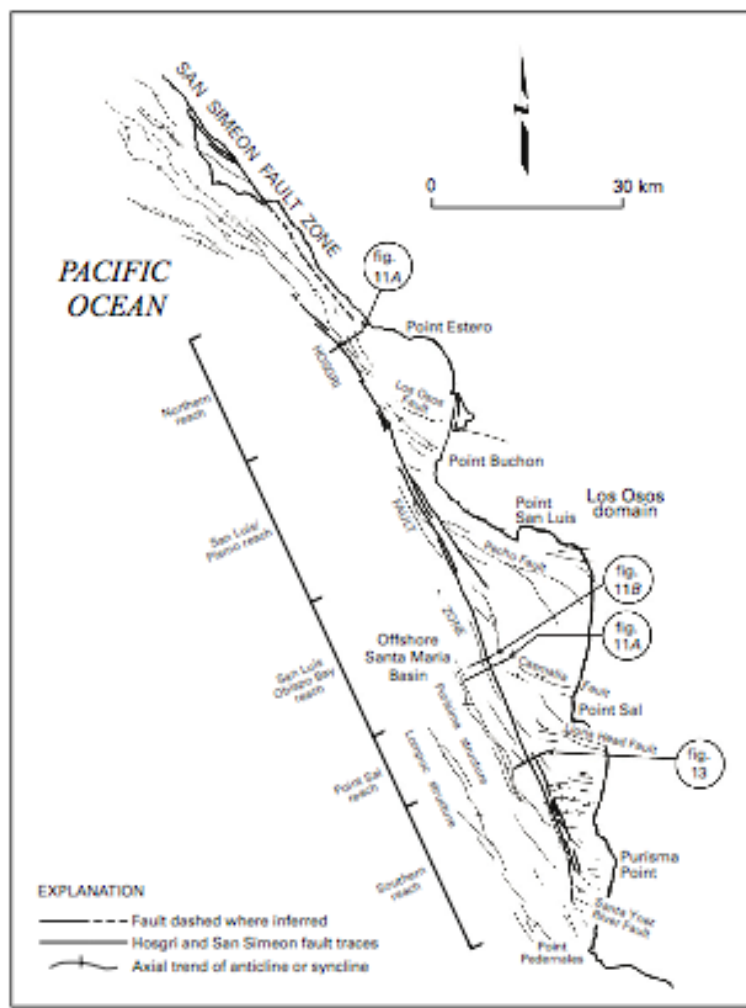
FBI Testimony before the Senate Committee on Intelligence (February 16, 2005)

Diablo Canyon is a particularly vulnerable target of terrorism because it is:



- located on an exposed and unprotected portion of the California coast
- susceptible to airborne and waterborne assaults
- not a no-fly zone

Diablo Canyon is located in a **seismically** active zone.



- Current NRC regulations prohibit nuclear facilities from being built next to active, major earthquake faults.
- The recently discovered Shoreline Fault has not been thoroughly studied. It is located 300 meters from the intake structure and 600 meters from the power block.
- There are multiple faults in the area – a minimum of 13.



The devastation in Japan offers a vivid reminder of one of the many significant risks of nuclear power.

Diablo Canyon is an old plant with aging components.

- Diablo was designed in the 1960s.
- Construction began in the late 1960s and continued into the 70s and 80s.
- Diablo didn't begin operation until 1984.

Do the math!

The plant was old before it began operation. It'll be over 60 years old at the end of the license renewal period.



Mothers for Peace plays a unique role as intervenor in litigation involving:

- seismic safety
- high level radioactive waste storage
- consequences of a terrorist attack
- opposition to license renewal for Diablo Canyon



Legal Intervention

Mothers for Peace is fortunate to be represented by Attorney Diane Curran, an NRC law expert from Washington, D.C.



Current Intervention:

opposition to license renewal at Diablo Canyon

PG&E currently has licenses to operate the two reactors at Diablo until 2024 and 2025. It has applied for an additional 20 years, until 2044 and 2045.



Four contentions have been accepted for litigation – two of which relate to the potential environmental impacts of earthquakes.

Mothers for Peace asserts that PG&E:

- lacks complete information about potential environmental impacts of earthquakes, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act.
- has not addressed environmental impacts of either accidents or terrorist attacks on the spent fuel pools or the two reactors.
- is incapable of managing the effects of aging on safety equipment in this plant, largely built in the 1970's, as shown in NRC inspection reports.

What's our alternative?

- conservation
- renewable sources of energy

[Climate 2030: A National Blueprint for a Clean Energy Economy \(2009\) | Union of Concerned Scientists](#)

http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/solutions/big_picture_solutions/climate-2030-blueprint.html



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