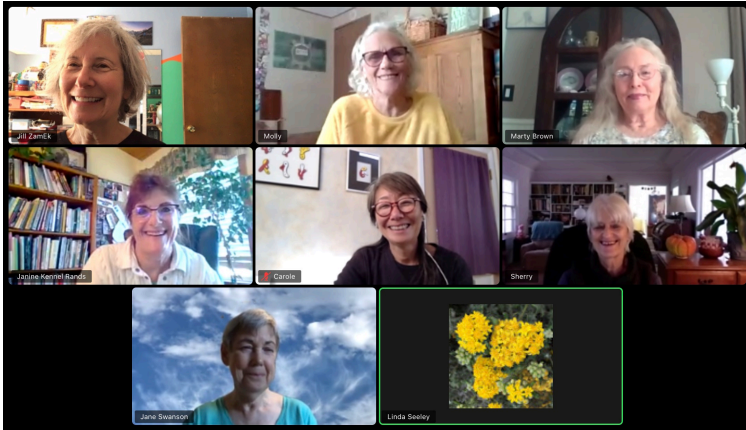


San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace



Newsletter Fall 2020

We are in tumultuous times. Our hope is that you and yours are safe, secure, and still able to find joy, beauty, and fulfillment. Mothers for Peace is grateful for the technology which enables us to continue our work and maintain our relationships.



MFP calls out PG&E for Lax Maintenance

Mothers for Peace continues to closely monitor operations at the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, as we have done since it began operation in 1984. Citizen monitoring is essential, for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) seems to make its decisions based on corporate profit rather than public safety. And as the plant approaches closure, there is a greater likelihood for maintenance to be deferred or delayed.

There was a disconcerting incident in mid-August. By happenstance, PG&E had discovered **deteriorated pipes** in the emergency cooling system in Unit 2 while the plant was shut down to address a different problem (stator and hydrogen leak). Suspecting a similar problem with Unit 1, PG&E requested an exemption from procedures to perform repairs while the plant was still operating. The public was given less than 24 hours to provide comments, and documents were difficult to access. A routine comment period is 30 days. MFP attorney Diane Curran and expert David Lochbaum filed oppositional comments, but unsurprisingly, the NRC allowed PG&E to flout safety regulations. It was sheer luck that no safety problems occurred.

The **stator** was recently replaced in Unit 2 at a cost of \$90.3 million to PG&E ratepayers. A hydrogen leak in that stator brought Unit 2 offline from July 17 until August 1. Then, again, Unit 2 has been offline since October 22 for the same unresolved problem. Unit 1 was shut down from October 6 - November 9 for refueling during this same timeframe. The purchase of this stator was intended to increase safety and reliability. That has not happened. Rather, these shutdowns at this aging plant have threatened grid reliability and presented serious safety and affordability issues.

MFP will continue our role as citizen monitors, because we strongly object to PG&E playing Russian roulette with public safety.



Once Through Cooling (OTC)

The federal Clean Water Act requires coastal power plants to cease using OTC due to the massive impact to the marine environment. Sadly, exceptions were made, and nine plants continue to operate on the California coast utilizing OTC - including Diablo Canyon nuclear plant. It circulates 2.5 billion gallons of seawater through its cooling system each **day**, killing multitudes of fish, fish larvae, and other sea-life. Already out of compliance with federal law, PG&E applied for an extension of its waiver to gain eight more months of operation for Unit 2 to coincide with its scheduled closure in 2025. Despite worthy arguments by Mothers for Peace and others during the summer hearing, PG&E was granted the waiver and will continue its insult to our coastal waters.

Divest from the War Machine



Mothers for Peace and local CodePink activists have collaborated on several recent projects.

On Memorial Day, we held a covid-safe Peace Parade to honor the men and women who have died in wars. Cars were decorated with colorful signs and messages promoting peace and the use of diplomacy to resolve conflict.

We also mounted a successful campaign asking the city of San Luis Obispo to divest from weapons manufacturers. The City Council and Mayor Heidi Harmon acted quickly to adopt this policy.

September 26, 2020 was declared by the United Nations to be the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. MFP and the local CodePink organization, led by Kelsey Zanis, implemented an on-line photo campaign messaging "NO to nuclear weapons."

We are most gratified that as of October 24, the necessary number of 50 Nations ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It will come into force on January 22, 2021. Unfortunately, the main nuclear powers of the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, China and France, have not yet signed the accord. MFP will again join with other peace activists to lobby our federal government to correct this lack and to get on the right side of history.

Our Local Community Choice Energy Challenges

1. *Nuclear does not belong in a clean energy portfolio!* Earlier this year, our local Community Choice Energy, Central Coast Community Energy (CCCE), formerly Monterey Bay Community Power, almost included nuclear in its power mix! By the time MFP learned that this was under consideration, the decision had already been made! MFP quickly teamed up with SLO Climate Coalition and others to work to convince CCCE to rescind its decision. Through dogged persistence and considerable community participation, CCCE reversed its decision and showed itself to be receptive to community input. This experience reaffirmed the importance of community engagement, and the coalition of organizations continues to meet, grow, and participate in CCCE meetings and decisions.

2. *PCIA Charges (AKA "exit fees") are outrageously high!* Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) is the (unfair) fee paid to PG&E by customers who join CCCE. Because the creation of CCAs equates to a nearly 50% loss of P&GE customers, the CPUC reasoned that PG&E should recover its investments and not place financial burdens on continuing PG&E customers. The PCIA is calculated as the difference between the utility's costs and the market value of the energy from Diablo. Since PG&E is producing power at \$1.2 billion over-market values, the PCIA charges are growing at an unreasonable rate, hindering the efforts of CCAs. Legal efforts are underway to attempt to rectify this major financial concern. MFP submitted an amici curiae in one of the cases - Protect Our Communities Foundation. Again, the result was unsurprising: the petition was denied.



MFP has had Zoom conversations this fall with the Regional Economic Action Coalition (REACH), an organization tasked with advising government and business organizations in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties. While we laud the REACH goals of supporting the Central Coast economy, we object to its avid support of the Space Force at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

The goals of the new United States Space Force show that the U.S. anticipates and is preparing for warfare in space. This contradicts the United Nations 1967 Treaty on Outer Space, to which the U.S. is a signatory.

MFP asserts that the United Nations treaty must be respected, and the Central Coast should not be made a potential military target by making Vandenberg a command center for the Space Force. Rather, we should invest in peace and human needs on Earth.

\$tudent \$cholarships

Mothers for Peace awards yearly scholarships to high school seniors and college students whose career plans and community work demonstrate serious commitment to caring for the Earth, promoting world peace, and/or social justice.

This spring marked the 30th anniversary of our scholarship program, and we are tremendously pleased to grant scholarships to four graduating high school seniors and one Cal Poly student.

Dylan Stephens attends Cal Poly, majoring in biology with a concentration in wildlife conservation and biodiversity. He has been involved in several projects focused on combating environmental injustice, and he is president of the Zero Waste Club on campus. Dylan aspires to become a professor, teaching environmental responsibility in combination with research.

Ysabel Wulfing graduated from Paso Robles High School and is now attending Boston University, where her primary interests are Journalism and International Relations. She was Editor-in-Chief of the journalism program in high school and she created two mini-documentary videos on DACA, for which she interviewed many DACA students. She also co-organized a student-run Forum on the plight of DACA students. Being Bilingual-Spanish has been a great asset in her endeavors.

Amalia Fleming graduated from Morro Bay High School. She is a singer/songwriter and uses her music for activism. Amalia is now attending Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Rain Garcia graduated from Templeton High School where she used journalism to advance social justice issues. Rain is now studying Communications and Public Relations at San Diego State. Her mission is to have an impact on social justice and/or the environment.

Claire Wellenkamp graduated from Nipomo High School and is now attending UC San Diego, where she is majoring in Marine Biology. Claire volunteered at Central Coast Aquarium for several years. She is passionate about inspiring others to protect our ocean.



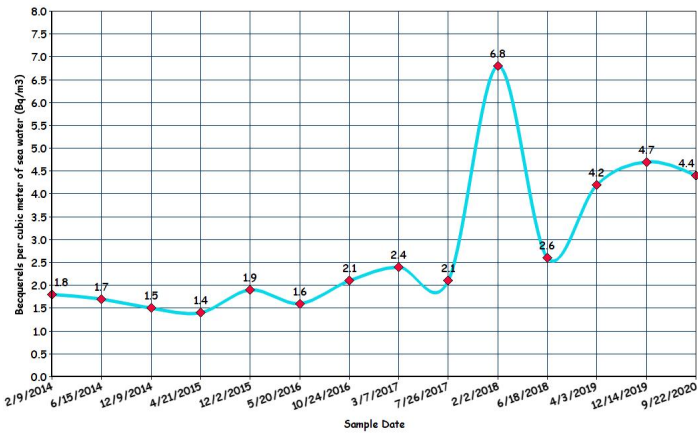
Mothers for Peace will always gratefully accept monetary donations. But given the unusual and difficult times we are now facing, MFP is not asking for contributions at this time. Our finances are stable, so take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

Monitoring Radiation

In the air: People from around the world - including MFP - are independently monitoring radiation and uploading that data onto a website. MFP purchased three monitors to assist in this effort. Visit <https://blog.safecast.org/> to view the results.

In the ocean: MFP continues to use Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute to analyze samples of the waters off Pismo Beach Pier to test for radiation from the Fukushima catastrophe. Note the most recent data point from 9.22.2020. Local and worldwide results are found at <http://ourradioactiveocean.org/results.html>.

C-137 Levels in Sea Water Collected South of Pismo Pier



National Strategic Coalition

on the Storage of Radioactive Waste

SLOMFP is pleased to announce that we have joined with over 40 other organizations across the nation in a new national coalition. This coalition will build solidarity and unity across the country among groups working on nuclear waste challenges. It will continue to expand current actions regarding legal, legislative, and regulatory issues while also bringing new people and groups into the movement – especially front-line communities, Indigenous Peoples, younger people, and people of color.

The first job of this coalition will be to implement a three-year strategic campaign. The idea to create a national strategic campaign came out of the National Grassroots RadWaste Strategy Summit held in March of 2018 in Chicago, IL. A volunteer committee from organizations across the U.S. was formed to begin the process of creating such a campaign. Our board member, Molly Johnson, was part of that committee.

We look forward to being a part of this new and very much needed coalition.

Follow Mothers for Peace!



Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS)

SLOMFP continues to oppose the transportation of high-level radioactive waste (HLRW) that has been generated at Diablo Canyon to any other community, particularly to poor communities of color. We have been involved in the opposition to two Consolidated Interim Storage sites that have been proposed in New Mexico and Texas. We have written and submitted comments on the Environmental Impact scoping and draft reports and have sent representatives to hearings and meetings. We are part of a lawsuit seeking intervenor status because of the impacts the transportation of the waste will have on our county and surrounding areas. Building these so-called 'interim' sites would require hauling dangerous, high-level nuclear waste all over the country twice: once to the 'interim' site, then once again to a permanent site—if one is ever built. If a permanent site is not built, the 'interim' sites could become de-facto permanent storage sites. MFP firmly asserts that Diablo's waste must continue to be stored on-site as safely and securely as possible until a permanent repository can be found. More robust storage containers and systems are needed at all existing reactor sites.

Proposed Oklo Micro-Reactor

As large nuclear reactors are closing across the country and around the world, the nuclear industry is pushing for Small Nuclear Modular Reactors (SNMR) and advanced nuclear technologies. The industry falsely claims that because the reactors are smaller, they are safer!

Mothers for Peace has joined a coalition of 28 environmental and civic organizations in a petition before the NRC. The intent is to revoke or suspend the hearing for a license application by Oklo Power to build and operate a 4-megawatt thermal micro-reactor ("Aurora") on the site of the Idaho National Laboratory. The NRC has not yet developed standards or requirements on a range of important safety regulations for this proposed reactor. Yet it accepted Oklo's incomplete application. Oklo itself has refused to address more than 40 mandatory safety regulations. Attorney Diane Curran is representing MFP and the other organizations in this legal action.



DIABLO CANYON
Decommissioning Engagement Panel

The DCDEP has three new members: Dr. Timothy Auran, interventional radiologist in SLO; Dr. Patrick Lemieux, Cal Poly mechanical engineering professor; and Charlene Rosales, Deputy Director/ COVID Manager for Mission Community Services Women’s Business Centers. They bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and community commitment to the Panel. MFP spokesperson Linda Seeley will continue to serve on the Panel until 2022.

The Panel continues to monitor the choice of the new dry cask storage system that will be chosen to house the 138 casks at Diablo Canyon after plant closure. Keep in mind that each cask contains more radiation than a Hiroshima bomb.

PG&E has narrowed the choice of dry cask storage to two manufacturers whose identities are “privileged information.” Prior to the PG&E’s publication of its Request for Proposals for the new system, the Panel recommended that the new storage system have the following attributes: 24-hour radiation monitoring, full inspection capability, fully retrievable canisters, the capability to either repackage or repair a damaged cask, and be fully licensed for transportation. We do not know if these recommendations have been incorporated into the manufacturing specifications, as those specifications are also “privileged information.”

During 2021, the Panel will address the following topics: Implications of CEQA and the California Coastal Act on Decommissioning; Impacts of Decommissioning Activities on the Local Transportation System; and Updates on the Dry Cask Storage System. Other topics will undoubtedly arise as the year progresses.

The DCDEP relies heavily on public comment for its recommendations. Please attend the virtual meetings and submit your recommendations and ideas. Visit diablocanyonpanel.org for further information and updates.



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Millions and Millions of Pounds of Toxic Waste

With Diablo Canyon scheduled for permanent closure and decommissioning, the people of San Luis Obispo County will be left with all of the waste produced since 1984. This highly radioactive waste will likely remain on our earthquake-prone coast into the foreseeable future. PG&E is selecting its new dry cask storage system now – and this decision will affect all of us, as well as our future generations. Because all of the potential designs for the new dry cask system are “privileged” information, we don’t know what design PG&E will select.



So, what can we do?

1. Write to PG&E. Ask for a design that:
 - provides 24-hour radiation and helium pressure monitoring;
 - can be fully inspected and repaired;
 - can be transported;
 - provides shielding from terrorist attack.

Send this demand to: James Welsch, Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Diablo Canyon Road, Avila Beach, CA 93424 (JMW1@pge.com).

2. Write a letter to President Marybel Batjer at the California Public Utilities Commission. This agency holds the purse strings for all projects at Diablo Canyon. Remind her that the Commission can urge PG&E to select the very safest dry cask storage available. Send this message to: California Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102 (marybelbatjer@cpuc.ca.gov).



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wishes you good health, good work, and a bright and fresh 2021.