

San Luis Obispo



Opposition to Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant since 1973

<http://mothersforpeace.org>

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



Visit us on
Facebook

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 **Intervenors** 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 available legal channels to ensure safe operation and compliance with State and Federal Laws.

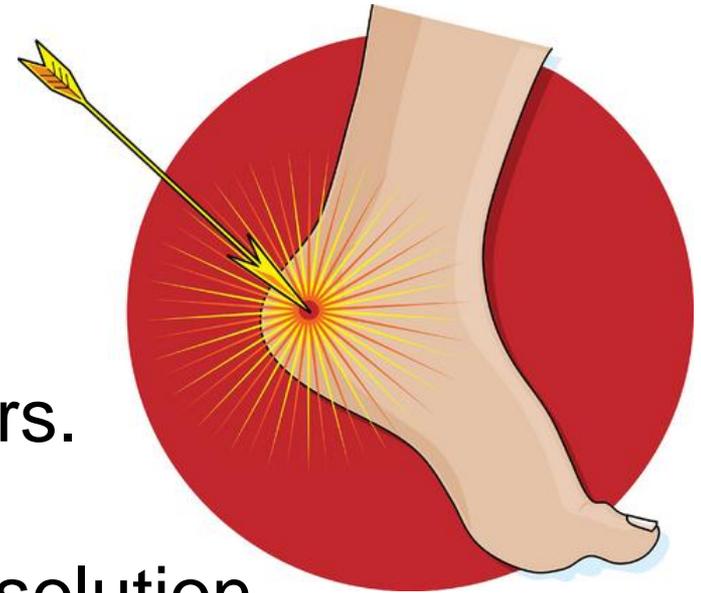


What are the problems with nuclear power?



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**.

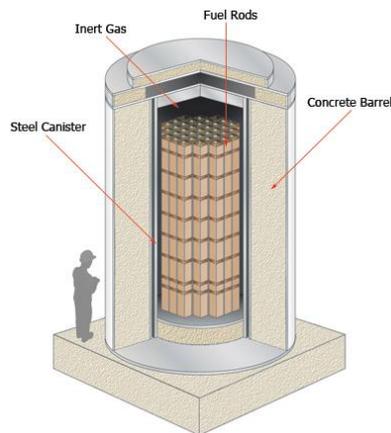
These casks are:

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



Best Option: Hardened On-Site Storage

- Transport by truck, rail, or barge is vulnerable to accident or terrorism
- Reprocessing yields materials that can be used for weapons
- Dry Casks are less vulnerable to accident or terrorism



* Passively cooled

* Survived Fukushima intact

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 \$



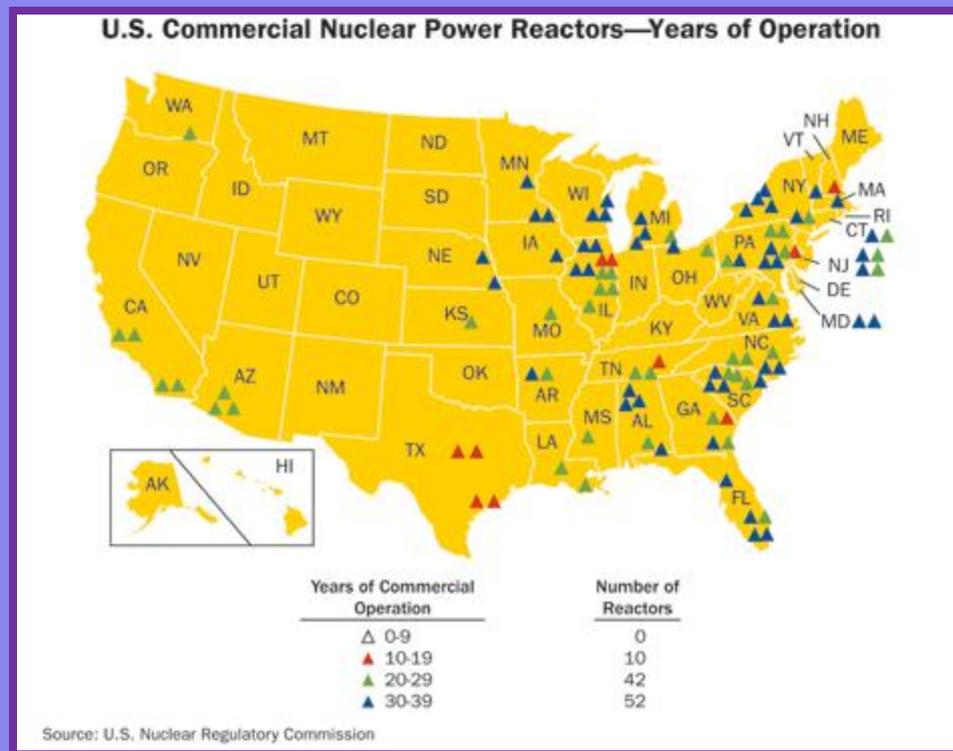
Estimates for new construction in 2011-2012 range between \$11 and \$14 billion per reactor.

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.



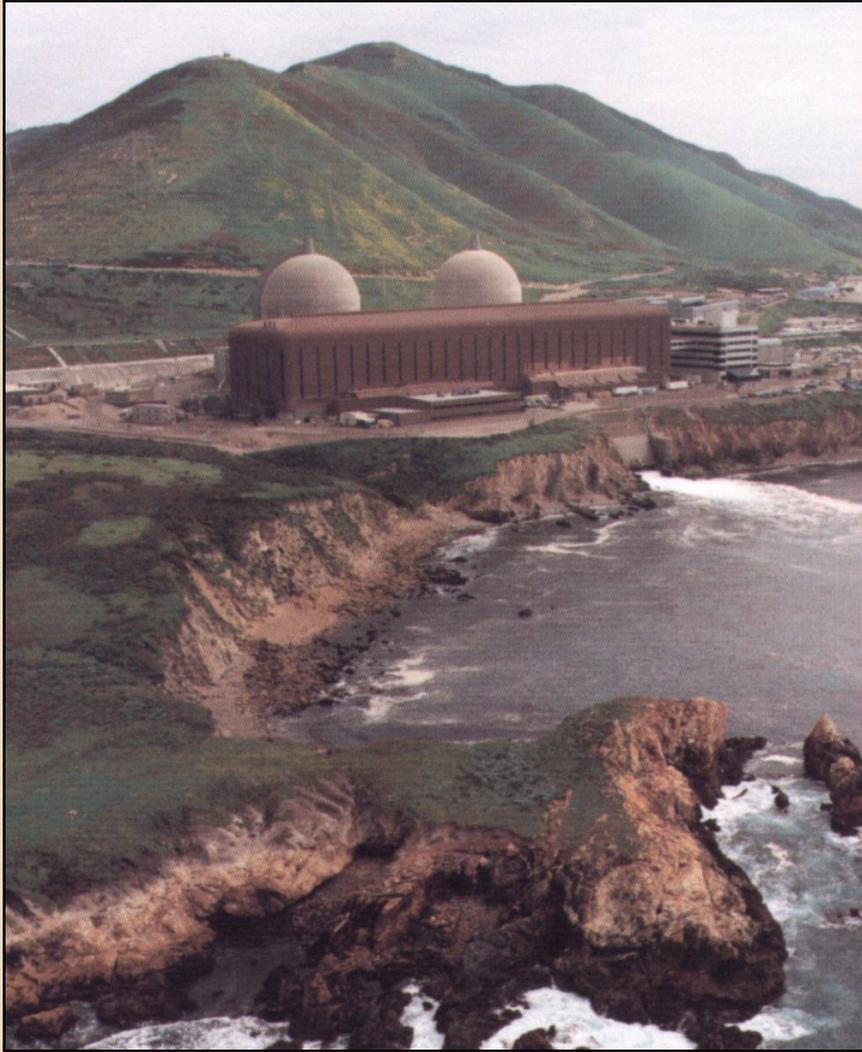
The Department of Homeland Security, the CIA, and the FBI have determined that **nuclear facilities are targets of terrorists.**



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

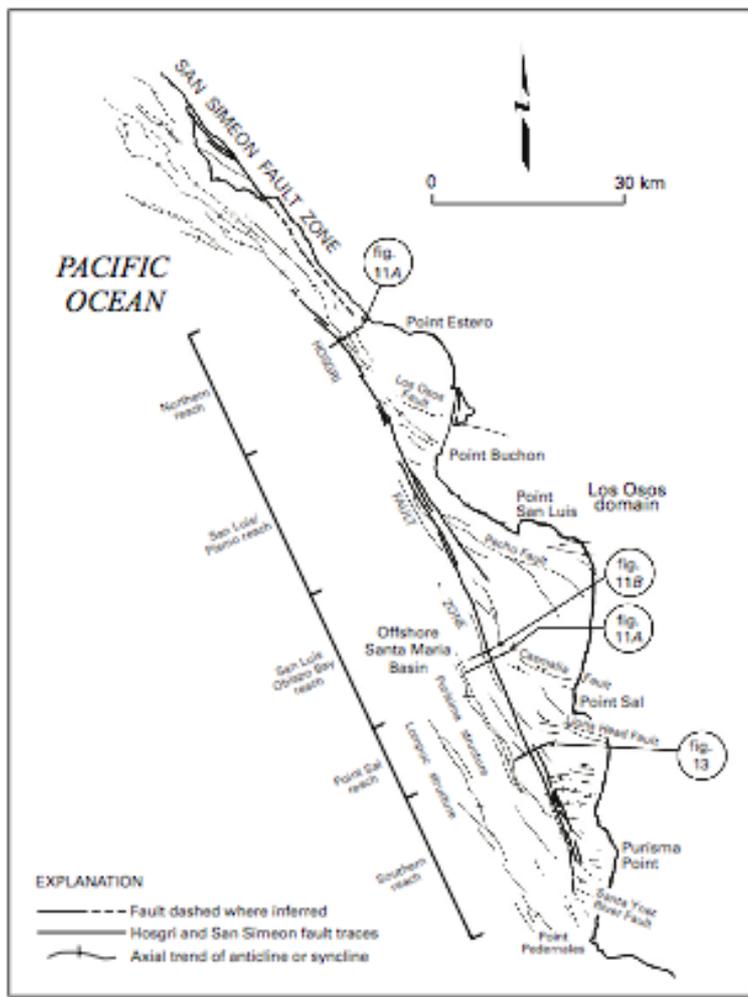
FBI Testimony before the Senate Committee on Intelligence (February 16, 2005)

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 Nuclear Power Plant



PG&E currently has licenses to operate the two reactors at Diablo until 2024 and 2025.

In November of 2009, PG&E applied for 20 additional years, until 2044 and 2045.

In its opposition to license renewal, Mothers for Peace asserts that PG&E:



- lacks essential information about potential environmental impacts of earthquakes, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act
- is out of compliance with federal law, which requires the NRC to take into account severe accident risks that have been recognized by NRC staff studies of the on-going Fukushima disaster

NRC Petition



In response to the crisis in Fukushima, **Mothers for Peace** has joined a total of **45 groups and individuals** from across the nation to formally ask the NRC to immediately suspend all licensing and other activities until a full study of implications from the Japanese reactor disaster is completed.

MFP attorney **Diane Curran** takes leadership in coordinating legal challenges of the NRC by dozens of intervenors.

- 37 groups demand the NRC expand evacuation zones and improve emergency planning for all reactor sites.
- 26 groups successfully demanded the NRC complete a thorough study of the environmental effects of storing spent radioactive fuel before issuing any licenses.

SEISMIC STUDY PROPOSAL

- CA State Legislature AB 1632 calls for: “(8) (A) Compilation and assessment of **existing scientific studies** that have been performed by persons or entities with expertise and qualifications in the subject of the studies, to determine the potential vulnerability, to a major disruption due to aging or a major seismic event, of large baseload generation facilities, of 1,700 megawatts or greater.”
- Implemented by CA Public Utilities Commission, which suggested 3-D studies to PG&E

HARMFUL EFFECTS OF 3-D ACOUSTIC STUDIES

- Proposed acoustic blast is 230 decibels every 15-20 seconds, 24 hours a day, 42 days
- Irreparable destruction to marine environment – whales, dolphins, porpoises, otters, seals, sea lions, crustaceans, fish larvae



THE CAUTIONARY PRINCIPAL MUST BE APPLIED; DO NO HARM!



“The specific received sound levels at which permanent adverse effects to fish potentially could occur are little studied and largely unknown.

Thus, available information provides limited insight on possible real-world effects at the ocean or population scale. This makes drawing conclusions about impacts on fish problematic because, ultimately, the most important issues concern effects on marine fish populations, their viability, and their availability to fisheries.”

Mothers for Peace **POSITION**

- Require baseline studies of marine life
- Search for less harmful technologies
- Include Diablo Cove Fault in study (which runs directly under Unit 1 reactor)
- Alternative to these studies:
- **SHUT DOWN BOTH REACTORS
AND MOVE HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE
WASTE TO DRY CASK STORAGE AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE!**

What's our alternative?

- conservation
- sustainable 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



You can support our work:

- Donate!
- Invite Mothers for Peace to speak to a group
- Inform your friends
- Visit us at our website and on Facebook

<http://mothersforpeace.org>