

San Luis Obispo



Fall 2023 NEWSLETTER



Diablo Canyon Update

Governor Newsom's Senate Bill 846 has kept Mothers for Peace working nonstop to prevent the extended operation of Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, utilizing multiple avenues and strategies.

- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
Mothers for Peace is a party to the proceedings in the CPUC case. A multitude of experts have filed testimony on our behalf, arguing that Diablo is not needed, is too costly, and is unsafe. We are represented by our excellent attorney, Sabrina Venskus. A final decision by the CPUC is expected by the end of this year.

- Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Mothers for Peace, Friends of the Earth, and Environmental Working Group have joined forces and have asked the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to reverse the NRC's unlawful decision to allow continued operation of Diablo Canyon reactors past their expiration dates without the required safety and environmental reviews and opportunity for public hearing.

The NRC exempted PG&E from a deadline in the agency's "timely renewal rule" which requires submission of reactor license renewal applications at least three years in advance.

Oral argument in this case is scheduled for January 10, 2024 in Pasadena. Diane Curran is our extraordinarily talented legal counsel before the NRC.

- NRC Commissioners
Mothers for Peace and Friends of the Earth jointly filed a petition calling for the immediate shutdown of Diablo Canyon's Unit 1 for tests to determine the degree of embrittlement of its pressure vessel. This may be the most important component of the reactor because it encases water on the highly radioactive reactor core. Failure of the reactor vessel could cause a catastrophic meltdown.

PG&E has repeatedly postponed essential tests and inspections. Extensive investigation has revealed an unprecedented and persistent pattern of neglect by PG&E and the NRC technical staff of their regulatory responsibilities for the condition of the Unit 1 pressure vessel.

- New Seismic Information
PG&E's revised seismological information about the Hosgri Fault shows that it could produce a much larger ground motion than formerly estimated. Also, our expert witness, Dr. Peter Bird from UCLA, has demonstrated that the two faults that run directly under the plant are vertical thrust faults, meaning they could cause much more ground motion than ever credited. Mothers for Peace is following this issue through the CPUC, the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee, and the Independent Peer Review Panel.

- Meetings with Legislators
Mothers for Peace members and its team of consultants have been meeting with state legislators, sharing our concerns and our evidence demonstrating that Diablo Canyon is dangerous and expensive - and its energy not needed.

For more detailed information and to read our legal filings, go to "Latest News" on our website:

mothersforpeace.org

\$ FUNDRAISING \$

In our work to ensure that Diablo Canyon closes in 2024 and 2025 as originally planned, Mothers for Peace has hired experts, consultants, and attorneys.

It is a daunting challenge for a local non-profit to raise the necessary funds to oppose well-funded opponents like PG&E, the CPUC, and the NRC. We have applied for grants and continue to hold local fundraising events, but we also rely on your generous donations.

DONATE

You may [donate online](https://mothersforpeace.org/donate) or by mail.

P.O. Box 3608

San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

mothersforpeace.org/donate



Moonlight Dance with "Up in the Air"



DIABLO CANYON
Decommissioning Engagement Panel

The Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel continues to work simultaneously on both plans to decommission the plant and to relicense it. The Panel is holding an important meeting on December 13 at 6pm at the SLO County Government Center to discuss the status of storing the highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel at Diablo Canyon. Mothers for Peace member Linda Seeley will chair the meeting.

\$cholarship\$

Each year, Mothers for Peace finds great joy in awarding scholarships to exemplary students whose education or career goals will have a positive impact on issues of peace, social justice, or the environment. We congratulate them and wish them well!

This year's scholarship winners are:

Christine Brennan

- graduate of Paso Robles High School
- current enrollment: UC Santa Cruz
- field of study: environmental science

Emily Pan

- graduate of San Luis Obispo High School
- current enrollment: UC San Diego
- field of study: biology and Asian studies

May Ritter

- graduate of San Luis Obispo High School
- current enrollment: Cal Poly, SLO
- field of study: Architecture, special interest in low-income housing

Megan Rubin

- graduate of Templeton High School
- current enrollment: Cal Poly, SLO
- field of study: environmental engineering

Meet these impressive leaders of tomorrow at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uIFH0Jm55k>

[Details and the applications](https://mothersforpeace.org/scholarships/) for 2024 can be found at <https://mothersforpeace.org/scholarships/>

Mothers for Peace sends heartfelt wishes for 2024: good health, good election results, a closed Diablo Canyon, peace in the world, and clean and sustainable energy!



STAND WITH US Events

Mothers for Peace has held numerous “stand with us” events throughout the year, bringing attention to our issues:

- Diablo Canyon
- Nuclear Weapons
- Fukushima
- Climate Change

Members and supporters gather with signs and informational handouts for passersby. Join our next gathering!



collecting ocean water for testing the degree of radioactive contamination

If you'd like to be added to the email alert list and/or meeting notices, contact jzamek@gmail.com