

August 24, 2026

Attn: Extending Operations of Diablo Canyon Power Plant

Members of the California State Legislature,

On behalf of the American Nuclear Society's (ANS) more than 12,000 members, many of whom live in California, we urge you to extend operations of Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) to 2045. The state recognized the nuclear power plant's importance in 2022, when Governor Newsom and the Legislature approved a partial extension of operations to 2030.

A premature closure of DCPP would remove California's largest single source of carbon-free electricity at a moment when demand is rising. Extending DCPP's operations enjoys bipartisan public support and the backing of both Democratic and Republican gubernatorial candidates.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed a three-year safety and environmental review before renewing the plant's operational licenses in April, issuing both a safety evaluation and a final supplemental environmental impact statement. California's Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee has provided continuous independent oversight of plant operations for more than three decades, with on-site inspections and annual public reporting to the Governor, the Attorney General, the California Energy Commission, and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

Now is the time for the Legislature to authorize extended DCPP operations through the full term of the plant's NRC licenses. The plant is facing a time crunch. Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) has told the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee that nuclear fuel procurement carries roughly a two-year lead time, which means the extension decision needs to be made during 2026. The Legislature adjourns August 31. A new Legislature and a new Governor would otherwise have to take the question up in 2027. PG&E has warned that extending the plant's life in short increments makes it harder to retain the qualified staff who run it.

DCPP's operator, its workforce, and California's power grid planners face retirement dates that would deepen the state's energy supply challenges. One possible vehicle is legislation amending the statutory retirement dates established by [SB 846 \(Dodd, 2022\)](#), moving the retirement dates for DCPP Units 1 and 2 from 2029 and 2030 to 2044 and 2045.

There are many reasons why it is important to preserve DCPD until 2045. Here are three of them:

1. Diablo Canyon is California's largest source of zero-carbon power

DCPD provides the equivalent of about five Hoover Dams of emission-free electricity 24 hours a day, 365 days every year. A premature closure would certainly require replacing it with interruptible out-of-state fossil fuels while increasing energy costs and air pollution when California needs to reduce both.

2. Diablo Canyon makes electricity more affordable in California

California's electricity rates are among the highest in the nation. Keeping Diablo Canyon running helps to hold them down. An [analysis by Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#) of CPUC's own resource planning scenarios found that operating the plant through 2045 would save ratepayers between \$7.6 billion and more than \$20 billion in present value, or roughly \$500 million to \$1.3 billion a year, depending on which portfolio the state would otherwise build. In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy [recently awarded \\$271 million](#) to keep Unit 1 online. DCPD is eligible to receive up to \$1.1 billion by the end of 2026 under the program.

3. Diablo Canyon provides irreplaceable grid reliability and stability

Weather-dependent intermittent sources, like solar panels, wind turbines and batteries, cannot on their own provide either reliable service 24/7 or grid frequency stability. DCPD supplies synchronous grid inertia and reactive power that keeps the grid stable and prevents cascading failures. The growing demand for electricity for AI and EVs requires round-the-clock, zero-carbon generation that DCPD can continue to supply if the legislature approves extended operation. There is no practical alternative to Diablo Canyon's approximately 2,250 megawatts of reliable and clean energy.

ANS urges the Legislature to act now. Doing so preserves a reliable, in-state source of clean electricity that California will need, and it gives the plant's operator the lead time that continued operation requires.

Respectfully,

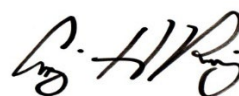
Mark Peters, Ph.D.



President 2026-2027

American Nuclear Society

Craig H. Piercy,



CEO

American Nuclear Society