



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO/Office of
Emergency Services
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: Set Hearing: 27 July 2010
Hearing: 3 August 2010
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: 15 Minutes on 3 August
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s) Michael D. Harris, Emergency Operations Chief
Contact Info: Jay McAmis, Emergency Manager
Office of Emergency Services
Nuclear Power Planning
(805) 560-1081
SUBJECT: Recommended Letter To Nuclear Regulatory Commission Regarding Earthquake
Fault In Vicinity of Diablo Nuclear Power Plant.

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Direct the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to write the Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission supporting the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors' request that immediate seismic studies be conducted on the recently discovered earthquake fault located in the vicinity of the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant and that the fault studies be conducted prior to further relicensing activities conducted by the Commission.

Summary Text:

On 9 March 2010 the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors, by unanimous vote, sent the attached letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding the need for immediate seismic studies on a recently discovered fault offshore from the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant, now named the Shoreline Fault. From an emergency management perspective, without prejudice towards the issue of nuclear power

generation, the discovery of an earthquake fault in an area of such a critical facility should immediately trigger further examination to determine risks posed to the facility.

Background:

Northern Santa Barbara County falls within the “Public Education Zone” (PEZ) of the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant. In the unlikely event of an emergency at the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services would receive notification from a dedicated phone line from San Luis Obispo County into Santa Barbara County Dispatch. Such a notification to OES and other agencies, would immediately activate emergency response plans to address any impacts to the Santa Barbara County Operational Area.

OES works with, and receives funding from, San Luis Obispo County OES to develop, maintain and rehearse plans that address various emergency scenarios that, although unlikely, may occur at the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant. Anticipated impacts to the Santa Barbara County Operational Area are evacuations (both ordered by authorities and those residents who are self-evacuating) from San Luis Obispo County. Such evacuations would require Santa Barbara county resources that address emergency management, decontamination staff from Fire agencies, Public Health staff to address illnesses and radioactive treatments, shelter management, Law Enforcement staff for significant traffic management, Agricultural Commissioner staff regarding crop impacts, as well as other expert and support staff.

Events at the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant are categorized as the following:

- **Unusual Event** is an event which is in process or has occurred and indicates a potential degradation of the level of safety of the plant or indicates a security threat to facility protection. No releases of radioactive material requiring offsite response or monitoring are expected unless further degradation of safety systems occurs.
- The **Alert** classification is characterized by an event that is in process or has occurred which involves an actual or potential substantial degradation of the level of safety of the plant or a security event that involves probable life threatening risk to site personnel or damage to site equipment because of intentional malicious dedicated efforts of a hostile act. Any releases are expected to be limited to small fractions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Protective Action Guideline exposure levels.
- A **Site Area Emergency** is characterized by an event that is in process or has occurred which involves actual or likely major failures of plant functions needed for protection of the public or a security event that results in intentional damage or malicious act; (1) toward site personnel or equipment that could lead to the likely failure of or; (2) that prevents effective access to equipment

needed for the protection of the public. Any releases are not expected to result in exposure levels which exceed EPA Protective Action Guideline exposure levels beyond the site boundary.

- A **General Emergency** classification is characterized by an event that is in process or has occurred which involves actual or imminent substantial core degradation or melting with potential for loss of containment integrity or a security event that results in an actual loss of physical control of the facility. Releases can be reasonably expected to exceed EPA Protective Action Guideline exposure levels offsite for more than the immediate site area.

While the attached San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors’ letter speaks to the relicensing issue that Pacific, Gas and Electric (PG&E) has undertaken for the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant, the Santa Barbara County emergency management staff believe that the overreaching issue is an immediate assessment of the “Shoreline Fault” identified in November 2008. While the discovery of a fault does not in itself indicate a risk to the plant (other faults exist in the general vicinity that, according to San Luis Obispo staff, do not pose a threat to the facility because of their inability to generate a seismic event of sufficient magnitude), the failure to determine the threat posed by this recently discovered fault and its relationship to the other faults is of concern to Santa Barbara County emergency managers.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Narrative:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the transmission of the recommended correspondence to the Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Staffing Impacts:

None.

Special Instructions:

Provide direction to the Chair of the Board regarding the attached recommended correspondence as to whether to transmit and/or any edits.

Attachments:

1. 9 March 2010 Correspondence from the San Luis Obispo Board to the NRC.
2. 9 March 2010 Correspondence from the San Luis Obispo County Board to the California Public Utilities Commission.
3. A recommended draft letter from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to the NRC.

Authored by:

Michael D. Harris

CC:

Frank Mecham, Chair, San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors

Tim Ness, City Manager/Emergency Services Director, City of Santa Maria

Regan Candelario, City Administrator/Emergency Services Director, City of Guadalupe

Ron Alsop, Emergency Manager, San Luis Obispo County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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March 9, 2010

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BRUCE GIBSON, Supervisor District Two
ADAM HILL, Supervisor District Three
KHATCHIK H. "KATCHO" ACHADJIAN, Supervisor District Four
JAMES R. PATTERSON, Supervisor District Five

Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman
c/o Annette I. Vietti-Cook, Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, DC 20555-0001

RE: Relicensing application for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors represents the residents who live within the Emergency Planning Zone of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. As such, we respectfully request that the NRC wait to begin processing the relicensing application filed in November 2009, until the seismic studies for the plant have been completed.

Our county has significant interest in seeing that these studies -- as would have been mandated by a bill authored by our local State Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee -- be completed so as to best ensure the safety concerns of our citizens. Recently, the California Public Utilities Commission determined those studies be completed before any further taxpayer or ratepayer monies be invested in the relicensing process.

Thus, we make this request out of common sense, without any prejudice toward the power plant, which we recognize is of both local and statewide importance.

The application for relicensing was filed exactly one year after PG&E announced that an earthquake fault had been discovered 1800 feet offshore of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Since then, it has been recommended that further seismic studies be conducted to include three-dimensional geophysical mapping and other advanced techniques to explore fault zones near the power plant.

March 9, 2010
Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman
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We are encouraged by the support shown for these expedited studies by our state's regulators and state legislature. We have also been encouraged by PG&E's willingness to complete these studies.

Thus, once again, in the interests of efficiency and openness, we respectfully ask that you allow these studies to be completed before public money is used to process the relicensing application for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. If a delay cannot be granted, then secondarily we would ask that the application process not be completed until the seismic studies have been completed.

Sincerely,

Frank Mecham
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee
State Senator Abel Maldonado
U.S. Congresswoman Lois Capps

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Honorable Michael R. Peevey, President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: PG&E's Application to Recover Costs of Diablo Canyon Seismic Studies

Dear President Peevey:

In 2006, the California Legislature enacted Assembly Bill 1632 (Blakeslee, Chapter 722, Statutes of 2006), which was codified as Public Resources Code 25303. AB 1632 directed the California Energy Commission (CEC) to assess the potential vulnerability of California's large, base load generation facilities, including the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCPP) and San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), to a major disruption due to a major seismic event or plant aging and to assess the impacts of such a major disruption on system reliability, public safety and the economy.

In November, 2008, it was announced that the USGS had discovered a previously unknown significant fault potentially running within a hundred yards of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. This new fault represents the second active fault in the immediate vicinity of the plant. The characteristics of the new fault, as well as its relationship with the first fault, are largely unknown.

Honorable Michael R. Peevey, President

March 9, 2010

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Following this discovery, the CEC issued the AB 1632 Report as part of its 2008 IEPR Update released in November, 2008. In the AB 1632 Report, one of the CEC's recommendations was that PG&E should use three dimensional (3-D) seismic reflection mapping and other advanced geophysical techniques to "help resolve uncertainties surrounding the seismic hazard at Diablo Canyon."

We are pleased that PG&E has filed an application seeking funding authorization from the CPUC to proceed with these supplemental seismic studies. We support approval of PG&E's application and we encourage the CPUC to approve the application and funding on an expedited basis so that PG&E may commence these critical seismic studies as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Mecham
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: CPUC Commissioner Dian M. Grueneich
CPUC Commissioner John Bohn
CPUC Commissioner Timothy Simon
Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee
State Senator Abel Maldonado
Congresswoman Lois Capps

3 August 2010

Gregory B. Jaczko, Chairman
c/o Annette I. Vietti-Cook, Secretary to the Commission
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Reference: Diablo Nuclear Power Plant Earthquake Fault Hazard

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

On 9 March 2010 the Board of Supervisors for San Luis Obispo County sent your Commission correspondence regarding the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant and a recently discovered offshore earthquake fault in the vicinity of the plant. Santa Barbara County is a neighboring county to San Luis Obispo County and, because of the nuclear power plant's proximity, this matter is of significant interest to the residents of Santa Barbara County.

According to the 9 March 2010 correspondence from the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, in November 2008 a new earthquake fault was discovered offshore in the vicinity of the Diablo Nuclear Power Plant, and is now named the "Shoreline Fault". Since its discovery no significant studies have been conducted on this fault to determine if there are any potential impacts to the nuclear power plant itself.

The Federal government, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has continually encouraged local government to identify hazards in their communities. The identification of a new earthquake fault in the area of a nuclear power plant is of concern to the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, its residents and should be for the NRC.

In a matter to only determine hazard and risk, and without prejudice towards nuclear power facilities, the Santa Barbara County Board is supportive of San Luis Obispo County's position that before further public funds are used by the NRC to process the relicensing of Diablo or before a final relicensing of the Diablo facility is approved, three dimensional geophysical mapping should occur to asses the risks of the newly discovered fault.

Sincerely,

Janet Wolf, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

C: Honorable Members of the Board
Santa Barbara County

Lois Capps, Member of Congress
23rd District, United States Congress

Frank Mecham, Chair
San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors

Michael R. Peevey, President
California Public Utilities Commission