



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING
TREVOR KEITH, *DIRECTOR*

Notice of Preparation and Notice of Scoping Meeting

Diablo Canyon Power Plant Decommissioning Project

ED2021-174 / DRC2021-00092

Date: October 28, 2021
To: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals
Lead Agency: San Luis Obispo County
Applicant: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

I. INTRODUCTION

This is a notice for solicitation of agency, organization, and public input and initiation of scoping for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant Decommissioning Project (DCPP Decommissioning Project or Proposed Project).

San Luis Obispo County (County) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the preparation and review of the DCPP Decommissioning Project EIR. Pursuant to Section 15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the County is soliciting the views of responsible, trustee, and interested agencies, organizations, and individuals on the scope and content of the environmental analysis in the EIR. Agencies should comment on the elements of the scope and content of the EIR that are relevant to the agencies' statutory responsibilities, as provided under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b). A summary of the Proposed Project, including alternatives under consideration, and environmental effects that may result from implementation are provided below. Additionally, information about the DCPP Decommissioning Project may be accessed via the County's website:

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Grid-Items/Community-Engagement/Active-Planning-Projects/Diablo-Canyon-Nuclear-Power-Plant-Decommissioning.aspx>

Comment Period: Written comments or questions regarding the scope and content of the EIR can be sent anytime during the Notice of Preparation (NOP) public review period. The review period begins **October 28, 2021 and ends December 6, 2021 (40 days)**. Please include the name of the contact person for your agency or organization, if applicable. Please send all comments via US mail or email to:

Susan Strachan
Nuclear Power Plant Decommissioning Project
Manager
San Luis Obispo County, Department of Planning
and Building
976 Osos St #300, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Email: diablo@co.slo.ca.us
Subject Line: DCPP Decommissioning
Project NOP Comments

Scoping Meetings: The County will hold 5 virtual scoping meetings using Zoom to give the agencies, organizations, and the public an opportunity to learn about the Proposed Project, to ask questions regarding the Proposed Project, and provide oral comments on the scope and content of the EIR. These meetings will be recorded and posted on the County’s website (see link above) for later viewing. Each meeting will include the same presentation. Comments received at each meeting will become part of the public record for the Project.

The meeting times and login details are as follows:

Tuesday November 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.	Tuesday November 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88008559486 or by Phone: (669) 900-6833 then enter Webinar ID: 880 0855 9486	Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88344286664 or by Phone: (669) 900-6833 then enter Webinar ID: 883 4428 6664
Wednesday December 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.	Wednesday December 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82051282377 or by Phone: (669) 900-6833 then enter Webinar ID: 820 5128 2377	Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83781876105 or by Phone: (669) 900-6833 then enter Webinar ID: 837 8187 6105
Saturday December 4, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.	
Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81440062317 or by Phone: (669) 900-6833 then enter Webinar ID: 814 4006 2317	

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) proposes decommissioning of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. The Proposed Project is located at 3890 Diablo Canyon Road in an unincorporated area of San Luis Obispo County. Approximately two-thirds of the DCPD site is located within the coastal zone and approximately one-third is located outside of the coastal zone.

The California Coastal Act (CCA) is the principal planning and regulatory program for the coastal zone of California. Section 23.01.031 of the County’s Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance (CZLUO) requires a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for development projects, including decommissioning projects, in accordance with the CCA and the above-referenced section of the CZLUO. In addition, Section 23.02.034 of the CZLUO requires a CDP to enable public review of significant land use proposals and to ensure consistency with local ordinance and policy. The area

of the site in the coastal zone is located within the California Coastal Commission (CCC) appeal jurisdiction, meaning that County decisions on the project may be appealed to the CCC. Section 22.62.060 of the County's Inland Land Use Ordinance requires a CUP for significant land use proposals outside the coastal zone to enable public review and ensure local ordinance and policy consistency.

The DCPP is located within the jurisdiction of the CCC and State Lands Commission (DCPP features in tidelands and submerged lands) and a CDP and new lease amendment will be required from these agencies, respectively for plant decommissioning activities within the agencies' jurisdictions.

The DCPP is a two-unit nuclear-powered electrical generating station that began commercial operation in 1985 for Unit 1 and 1986 for Unit 2 and is the last nuclear power plant still operating in California. The two reactors are licensed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to operate until November 2, 2024 (Unit 1) and August 26, 2025 (Unit 2). Between 2009 and 2016, PG&E pursued efforts to renew these licenses, which would have allowed for the continued operation of DCPP until 2044 (Unit 1) and 2045 (Unit 2). In 2016, PG&E decided to forego license renewal efforts and announced plans to close DCPP at the expiration of its current NRC operating licenses. This decision was confirmed by the California Public Utilities Commission in 2018. Upon final shutdown of the units and assuming all permit conditions are acceptable, PG&E intends to transition DCPP immediately from an operating status into a decommissioning status, meaning the facility will be shutdown and the process of dismantling and removing it will begin.

Project Summary. The Proposed Project involves four different sites: (1) the DCPP site, (2) the Pismo Beach Railyard (PBR), and (3) one of two potential Santa Maria Valley Railyard Facility (SMVR) sites (see figures provided at the end). The DCPP site is on the coast of San Luis Obispo County, California, approximately 7 miles northwest of Avila Beach. The DCPP facility comprises a 750-acre high-security zone surrounded by an approximately 12,000-acre area of land owned by either PG&E or Eureka Energy, a wholly owned subsidiary of PG&E.

The rail sites would be used to transfer decommissioning waste from trucks to rail cars, where the waste would then be transported by rail to out-of-state disposal facilities (Clive, Utah and/or Andrews, Texas). The PBR site is currently used by PG&E for equipment and material storage and transportation needs in support of DCPP operations. The site is located at 800 Price Canyon Road in the City of Pismo Beach in San Luis Obispo County, approximately 13 miles southeast of the DCPP site. This site would be used as a contingency for the transfer of non-radioactive and non-hazardous decommissioning waste. Two SMVR sites are being considered; however, only one would be used. One is within the City of Santa Maria at the Osburn Yard, located at 1599 A Street, and the other further west within the County of Santa Barbara at Betteravia Industrial Park located at 2820 W. Betteravia Road.

Facility decommissioning would occur in two phases:

- Phase 1 (2024 through 2031): Pre-planning and Decommissioning Project Activities, and
- Phase 2 (2032 through 2039): Completion of Soil Remediation, Final Status Surveys, and Final Site Restoration.

The main activities in Phase 1 include:

- Installation of electrical infrastructure for the decommissioning power supply
- Site security infrastructure and general modifications to existing structures to support decommissioning activities
- Removal of the nuclear reactor pressure vessels (RPVs), RPV internal components, and steam generators
- Decontamination and demolition of buildings
- Intake structure modifications to accommodate waste removal by barge
- Removal of the discharge structure and restoration of the area once removed
- Construction of waste storage facilities for Greater than Class C (GTCC) waste and non-radioactive waste
- Spent Fuel and GTCC waste transfer to Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) and new GTCC storage building
- Removal of firing range and construction of new firing range
- Site characterization to determine areas of contamination and soil remediation (soil clean up)
- Initial site restoration, soil remediation, and Final Status Surveys (surveys to ensure the site meets release criteria specified in the NRC required License Termination Plan)
- Modify and use of railyards for waste shipments (under separate permits from the Cities of Pismo Beach and Santa Maria and County of Santa Barbara)

The main activities in Phase 2, which would occur only at the DCPD site, include:

- Continue soil remediation
- Continue Final Status Surveys
- Remove infrastructure not supporting retained facilities (e.g., roads, parking areas)
- Final site restoration
- Site restoration monitoring (up to 5 years)
- Transition to ISFSI and GTCC storage facility operations
- Termination of NRC Part 50 DCPD operating licenses

Facilities that would remain in place for PG&E use in an “owner-controlled area” (see below) following completion of Phases 1 and 2 include:

- Primary and secondary access roads
- Internal roads
- 230 and 500 kV switchyards
- ISFSI
- Raw water reservoirs
- New security building, firing range, and GTCC waste storage facility (built in Phase 1)

In addition, PG&E proposes to retain the existing Eastern and Western Breakwaters and Intake Structure for potential future use by others.

The structures that would remain onsite would continue to be managed by PG&E within a designated owner-controlled area (see figure below). Activities would be limited to ISFSI and GTCC storage facility operations until an off-site interim storage facility or permanent repository is available. Identification of an off-site repository for long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel and

GTCC waste is a concern both for DCPP and for nuclear power facilities across the nation and awaits resolution by the federal government.

III. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The EIR will evaluate alternatives to the Proposed Project that have the potential to reduce environmental impacts. The alternatives identified below are under consideration.

■ **No Project Alternatives.**

- **SAFSTOR Alternative** – DCPP would be placed in a safe, stable storage condition referred to as SAFSTOR and DCPP decommissioning would be completed within 60 years as required under federal regulation.
- **No CSLC Approval Alternative** – This alternative assumes no approval from California State Lands Commission (CSLC) is received for decommissioning infrastructure within the CSLC jurisdiction, which includes offshore areas including State (filled) tide and submerged lands. Under this alternative decommissioning of structures within the CSLC jurisdiction (e.g., discharge structure, boat dock, storage facility, office facilities, intake electrical room, intake maintenance shop, equipment storage pad, spare tri-bar storage) would not occur. Repurposing of other structures, such as the breakwater or intake structure, would not occur. Decontamination and radiological and chemical remediation would take place to achieve license termination.

- **Intake Structure Removal Alternative.** This alternative would include full removal of the intake structure back to the water tunnels, and tunnel entrances would be sealed with a concrete bulkhead.

- **Breakwater Removal Alternative.** This alternative would include full removal of the breakwaters around the Intake Cove and marine habitat restoration using imported rocks.

- **Minimum Demolition Alternative.** This alternative would leave buildings and supporting infrastructure in place to the maximum extent feasible. Decontamination and radiological and chemical remediation would take place to achieve license termination. Eventual dismantlement and offsite transportation could take place later, or buildings and supporting infrastructure could be reused by a third party.

- **Full Removal Alternative.** All DCPP infrastructure would be completely removed (beyond the standard three feet minimum below adjacent grade), including the intake structure and breakwaters. Only the owner-controlled area and associated support facilities, such as utilities and roads would remain.

IV. AREAS OF POTENTIAL IMPACT FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT (2024 - 2039)

The County has determined that an EIR will be required to satisfy environmental review for the Proposed Project. Therefore, as allowed under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(d), the County has not prepared an Initial Study and will instead begin work directly on the EIR. The EIR will focus on the potentially significant effects of the Proposed Project, discuss any effects found not to be significant (CEQA Guidelines Section 15128) and will assess the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, as well as growth-inducing effects.

The EIR will include an evaluation of the following environmental issues:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources (Marine and Terrestrial)
- Cultural Resources – Archaeology and Built Environment
- Cultural Resources - Tribal Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology, Soils, and Coastal Processes (Paleontology)
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazardous and Radiological Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning (Agriculture)
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services and Utilities
- Recreation and Public Access
- Transportation
- Wildfire

The EIR will also analyze:

- Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise
- Commercial Fishing
- Environmental Justice
- State Tide and Submerged Lands Possessing Significant Environmental Values

No determinations have been made as to the significance of these potential effects. Such determinations will be made in the EIR after the issues are thoroughly analyzed. The County invites interested parties, and all affected, responsible, and trustee agencies, to suggest specific areas of analysis to be addressed within these general categories, or other issues not included above, to be considered in the EIR.

V. FUTURE SITE REUSE POTENTIAL (2040 AND BEYOND)

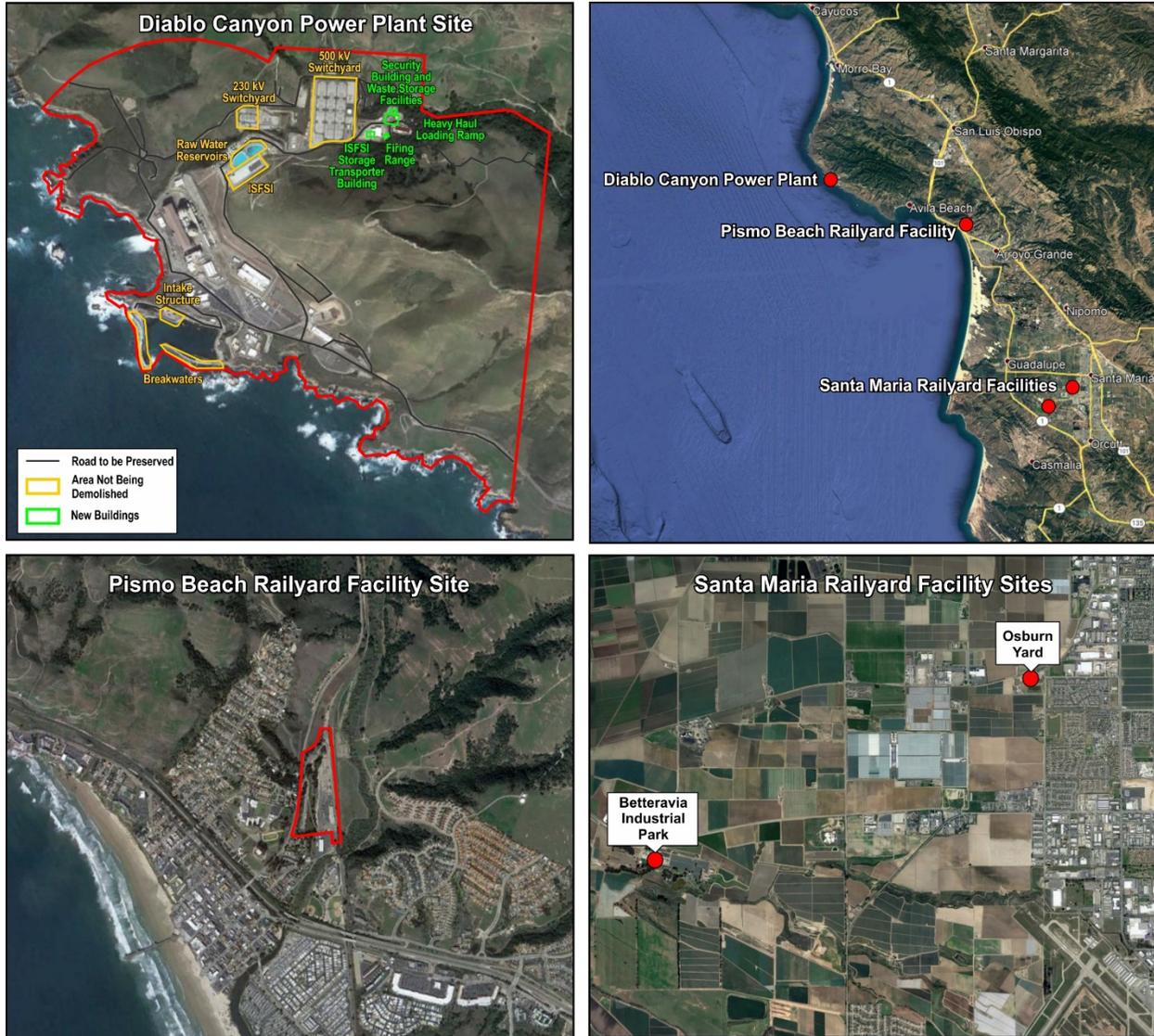
Following Phases 1 and 2 of decommissioning and termination by the NRC of DCP's Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 50 license (10 CFR Part 50, or Part 50), the DCP site, excluding the owner-controlled area, would be available for development. Therefore, the EIR will evaluate possible reuse concepts for the DCP site, which will be referred to in the EIR as Phase 3. Because these uses would be far in the future and would require separate land use and CEQA analysis for permitting, the reuse concepts will be evaluated at a program level. This evaluation will be provided to identify potential environmental impacts or issues associated with the possible reuse concepts.

The County is still developing ideas for future site reuse. However, the EIR may compare the possible environmental impacts of the following reuse concepts:

- University Campus
- Developed Recreation (car camping to glamping)
- Day Use Recreation (e.g., trails)
- Research Facility
- Renewable Energy Production and/or Storage
- Resort Hotel
- Mixed Use
- Offshore Wind Port/support facility

The possible environmental impacts of the different concepts will be identified based on the project site information developed for the Proposed Project and will consider the same issue areas as those identified above for the Proposed Project.

Figure 1. DCPP Decommissioning Project Sites



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 Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPA, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community