

HITE Seismic 15 arg.txt

Gmail Dr. C. Hite <aaaptly@gmail.com>
Conscientious objections to further seismic study on the Central Coast
1 message
Dr. C. Hite <aaaptly@gmail.com> Mon, Oct 15, 2012 at 8:44 PM
To: jpatterson@co.slo.ca.us
Bcc: pteixeira@co.slo.ca.us, ahill@co.slo.ca.us, mecham@co.slo.ca.us

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, Chair
James Patterson

RE: 15 Arguments against further seismic testing on the Central Coast of California

By Dr. C. Hite, Los Osos, California

World Community Workshop

(Arguments highlighted in yellow)

- 1) There have been NO scientific studies on the adverse affects on wildlife from the 2011 Seismic testing throughout Los Osos and the County of San Luis Obispo, California.
- 2) There has been no scientific release of data from this 2011 seismic ground testing.
- 3) It would be prudent for PG&E to compile the data from the ground seismic testing first to see if shoreline, estuary and offshore seismic study is necessarily.
- 4) PG&E should be required to release the scientific information on the low energy seismic research off portions of the California Central Coast before proceeding with the controversial high decibel seismic study.

<http://www.pge.com/myhome/edusafety/systemworks/dcpp/newsmedia/seismic/index.shtml>
Seismic Studies Update

During the week of August 20, 2012, PG&E will resume low-energy seismic research work off portions of California's Central Coast.

PG&E began the first phase of this low-energy offshore study in 2010, and completed the second portion in 2011. The third phase will study areas near San Luis Bay, Estero Bay and Point Sal.

All operations will be performed during daylight hours and processes and procedures have been implemented to monitor and protect marine mammals while the study is underway.

Mariner and commercial boat traffic are encouraged to remain at least a mile away from the vessel while it operates in the area to avoid entanglement with research equipment. Daily updates on the location of the vessel can be found at www.marinetraffic.com using the search word "Pacific Star."

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- 5) Further seismic study should NOT be allowed to proceed without guidelines. NOAA has yet to develop marine mammal acoustic guidelines.

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

Ocean Acoustics
More on Acoustics

Guidelines
Shipping Noise
Sonar
Behavioral Response Studies/ Controlled Exposure Experiments

Humpback Whales, *Megaptera novaeangliae*
Humpback whales
(*Megaptera novaeangliae*)
Photo: R. Wicklund, NOAA

The NOAA Fisheries Acoustics Program is investigating all aspects of marine animal acoustic communication, hearing, and the effects of sound on behavior and hearing in protected marine species. Specifically, the program is:

- Developing acoustic exposure policy for NOAA
 - Developing marine mammal acoustic guidelines
 - Providing technical analysis for NOAA Incidental Take Authorizations and Biological Opinions involving human sound sources based on the best available marine mammal acoustic science
 - Supporting research in a variety of areas to address critical data needed to improve and expand these criteria (working directly with NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology)
 - Leading efforts to develop a global passive acoustic noise-monitoring network [pdf] in key marine environments around the world

More Information

- Cetacean and Sound Mapping Working Groups
- Federal Task Force on Anthropogenic Sound (JSOST 2009) [pdf]
- Shipping Noise
- Sonar
- Behavioral Response Studies/Controlled Exposure Experiments
- NOAA Fisheries
 - Alaska Fisheries Science Center
 - Northeast Fisheries Science Center
 - Northwest Fisheries Science Center
 - Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
 - Southeast Fisheries Science Center
 - Southwest Fisheries Science Center
- NOAA VENTS Program
- Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
- Learn more about sound

Updated: October 11, 2012

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6. San Luis Obispo County has NO marine mammal stranding network to report to.

Southwest Region Marine Mammal Stranding Network

California

NMFS Southwest Regional Office dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
Long Beach, CA
562-980-3230

NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
La Jolla, CA
858-546-7162
Dead Cetaceans and Pinnipeds; Sea Turtles

California Academy of Sciences dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
Department of Ornithology and Mammalogy
San Francisco, CA
415-379-5381
Dead Cetaceans and Pinnipeds; Sea Turtles

California wildlife Center dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
Malibu, CA
310-458-9453 or 818-222-2658
Live Cetaceans and Pinnipeds; Sea Turtles

Channel Islands Marine & wildlife Institute dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
Goleta, CA
805-567-1505
Live Cetaceans and Pinnipeds; Sea Turtles

Humboldt State University - vertebrate Museum dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
Arcata, CA
707-826-4872
Dead Cetaceans; Sea Turtles

Long Marine Lab, University of California dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
Santa Cruz, CA
831-212-1272

Live Cetaceans
Dead Cetaceans and Pinnipeds; Sea Turtles

Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll

Los Angeles, CA
323-585-5105
Dead Cetaceans; Sea Turtles

Marine Animal Rescue dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
El Segundo, CA
800-39-WHALE
Live Cetaceans and Pinnipeds; Sea Turtles

Marine Mammal Care Center at Fort MacArthur dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll

San Pedro, CA
310-548-5677
Live Cetaceans and Pinnipeds; Sea Turtles

Moss Landing Marine Laboratories dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
Moss Landing, CA
831-771-4422
Dead Cetaceans and Pinnipeds; Sea Turtles

Northcoast Marine Mammal Center dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
Crescent City, CA
707-465-6265
Live Cetaceans and Pinnipeds; Sea Turtles

Pacific Marine Mammal Center dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
Laguna Beach, CA
949-494-3050
Live Cetaceans and Pinnipeds; Sea Turtles

Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
Santa Barbara, CA
805-687-3255
Live Cetaceans and Pinnipeds; Sea Turtles

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
Vertebrate Laboratory
Santa Barbara, CA
805-682-4711 x156
Dead Cetaceans; Sea Turtles

Seaworld dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
San Diego, CA 92109
800-541-7325
Live Cetaceans and Pinnipeds; Sea Turtles

The Marine Mammal Center dolphin graphic by ray troll turtle graphic by ray troll
Sausalito, CA
415-289-7350
Live Cetaceans and Pinnipeds; Sea Turtles

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7) The nitrogen hot fertilizer of organic flotsam from the seismic study "take" will clog the cooling water intake of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, making it unreliable.

<http://www.pgecurrents.com/2012/04/27/san-luis-obispo-county-diablo-canyon-powers-down-after-sea-salp-migration/>

Posted on April 27, 2012
San Luis Obispo County: Diablo Canyon Powers Down after Sea Salp Migration
Diablo Canyon Aerial View

Diablo Canyon Power Plant in San Luis Obispo County

AVILA BEACH - PG&E has powered down Unit 2 at its Diablo Canyon Power Plant after a migration of small jellyfish-like creatures known as sea salps.

As reported by the San Luis Obispo Tribune, southerly winds began blowing the salps into the plant's cooling water intake cove on Tuesday. Plant operators noticed differences in water pressure at the intake structure, which meant the salps were beginning to clog the rolling screens in front of the intake.

After initially reducing power in Unit 2 to 15 percent, the problem with the animals first got better and

then got worse. So, on Wednesday, the decision was made to fully power down the plant.

"I've been very pleased with how staff has reacted to this by putting safety first," Ed Halpin, PG&E's chief nuclear officer, told the newspaper.

Small jellyfish-like creatures called sea salps are in the water near Diablo Canyon.

Millions if not billions of sea salps, a one- to three-inch long transparent barrel-shaped animal that looks and feels much like a jellyfish, came ashore in the area with onshore currents. These creatures feed on plankton, and multiply rapidly.

The plant will return to full power as soon as it is safe to do so, and conditions warrant, Halpin said.

John Lindsey, a PG&E spokesman and meteorologist based in San Luis Obispo, said Friday that the winds have now changed direction in the area, and the salps should begin heading out to sea.

The Diablo Canyon intake provides seawater for cooling. It is 240-feet long, 100-feet wide and 18-feet high. It extends down 32 feet below sea level. The intake structure is backfilled by rock on three sides, and has water on the fourth (western) side.

The intake relies on four, 13,000-horsepower electric motors to pump 1.7 million gallons per minute or up to 2.5 billion gallons per day. In other words, the circulating water system provides the heat sink required for removal of waste heat in the power plant's thermal cycle. The circulating water system is designed to provide cooling water necessary to condense the steam entering the main condenser.

A curtain wall at the front of the intake structure limits the amount of floating debris entering the intake structure. Bar racks near the front of the intake structure intercept large submerged debris. Traveling screens intercept all material larger than the screen mesh opening, which measure 3/8ths of an inch.

The intake also houses the Auxiliary Salt Water (ASW) pumps. The ocean water supply to the ASW system provides the cooling and heat absorption capability required to remove waste heat under normal and emergency conditions.

The two units of Diablo Canyon produce approximately 2,300 net megawatts of greenhouse-gas-free electricity, about 10 percent of all electricity generated in California. That's enough to meet the needs of over three million homes in central and northern California. Unit 1 at the nuclear power plant was shut down for refueling starting on April 23.

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8) PG&E will be acting against its own stated commitment to the "environment" for the purpose of extending the license of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/?shva=1#drafts/13a65f7cf279a230>
PG&E's Environmental Commitment

At PG&E, we are committed to being an environmental leader and demonstrating this through our actions. We pledge to think creatively, work cooperatively and be results-oriented in our environmental stewardship efforts.

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9) PG&E Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is aged, scheduled for decommission and is unreliable

http://www.pge.com/myhome/edusafety/systemworks/dcpp/newsmedia/pressrelease/archive/unit_2_at_pges_diablo_canyon_power_plant_safely_shut_down_following_electrical_disturbance.shtml

Unit 2 at PG&E'S Diablo Canyon Power Plant Safely Shut Down Following Electrical Disturbance

October 11, 2012

AVILA BEACH, Calif. – Unit 2 at Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Diablo Canyon Power Plant safely shut down as designed at 12:08 p.m. today after an electrical disturbance occurred in equipment that moves power to the state's electric grid. Unit 1 continues to safely generate power.

Plant operators responded to the shutdown according to procedures and are working to determine the cause of the incident. The unit remains in a safe condition and will be restored to service after the cause is fully understood and the equipment is fully tested. PG&E has informed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and appropriate local and state officials.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is one of the largest combined natural gas and electric utilities in the United States. Based in San Francisco, with 20,000 employees, the company delivers some of the nation's cleanest energy to 15 million people in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit <http://www.pge.com/about/newsroom/> and

www.pgecurrents.com.

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<http://marinelife.about.com/od/conservation/a/sonarCA.htm>

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10) The Central Coast rate payers had NO vote on paying for the seismic study and have NO vote to shut the plant down as did the Sacramento rate payers.

<http://www.energy-net.org/01NUKE/RSECOT.HTM>
The History of Rancho Seco
1966-1969

SMUD purchases 2,100 acres in southeast Sacramento County for a nuclear power plant. Construction begins on the cooling towers.
1971

SMUD raises rates...even though Rancho Seco hasn't produced a single kilowatt-hour of electricity. The day Rancho Seco is dedicated there is a forced shutdown of the reactor (unknown to those attending the dedication ceremony)... a portent of things to come. [10/19/74]
The turbine breaks down. The plant is shut down for 13 of the first 18 months of operation.

1976

Loose parts are found in Rancho Seco's generator. SMUD says the find "will not cause any additional lost time." The plant is down for six months. [4/9/76, SB]

1978

Rancho Seco shuts down four times. Problems are due to a dangerously fast cooldown.

1979

Radioactive iodine is found in milk from cows grazing near Rancho Seco. [Quarterly Radiation Report on Rancho Seco]

1980

Rancho Seco shuts down six times. Problems occurred with pipe supports, reactor coolant leaks, malfunctions, turbine bearings and feedwater flow. [9/26/83, SU]
SMUD is fined \$25,000 by the NRC for violating federal safety standards.

1981

A state report on emergency planning estimates that a serious nuclear accident at Rancho Seco could result in as many as 76,000 deaths and 110,000 injuries. [11/2/80, SB]
Rancho Seco shuts down 12 times. Problems are due to steam generator tube leaks, feedwater, reactor coolant pump and turbine vibrations. [9/26/83, SU]

1982

Rancho Seco shuts down 11 times, due to problems with the turbine, steam leaks, oil pressure and reactor trips. [9/26/83, SU]
SMUD is fined \$120,000 for violating federal safety regulations.
The steam generator leaks again...more radioactive steam escapes. Another shut-down.

1983

Rancho Seco shuts down five times, due to maintenance, re-fueling, modifications, oil pressure in turbine generator, heat imbalance in reactor and leak in steam generator tube. [9/26/83, SU]
The steam generator tubes leak again and more radioactive steam escapes into the atmosphere. The plant is shut down again.
SMUD faces a lack of skilled workers for Rancho Seco. [3/6/83, SB]

1984

Rancho Seco is on the NRC's list of the ten worst nuclear plants in the U.S. in overall assessment of management performance. [3/28/89, Public Citizens Mishaps Report, NRC]
More than two billion gallons of water containing radiation levels above federal guidelines have been dumped from Rancho Seco into a creek that feeds the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers, SMUD officials confirmed. [4/14/84, SB]
Two workers are killed by high-pressure steam bursting from a boiler at Rancho Seco.
An explosion and fire shut down Rancho Seco for 38 days.

1985

SMUD raises rates twice...by nearly 30 percent. SMUD has the first budget deficit in its history. From January 1, 1985 to March 31, 1988, Rancho Seco operates only three months (out of three and one-quarter years).

On December 26, Rancho Seco suffers the third-fastest shut-down in U.S. reactor history when a control circuit malfunctions. The sudden temperature change could have cracked the reactor vessel and led to a meltdown.

SMUD customers are now paying 40 percent more than a year ago. Rancho Seco work is \$27 million over budget and another rate increase is being considered.

1986

Sacramentans for SAFE Energy (SAFE) calls for the SMUD board of directors to commission an independent, comprehensive study of the safety and economic risks associated with Rancho Seco as well as a comparison of alternative means of meeting our energy needs.

Rancho Seco assistant manager for nuclear operations Dan Whitney said plant managers sometimes deliberately withheld information about system shortcomings when questioned by the NRC. [5/22/86, SB] SMUD admits that Rancho Seco was "mismanaged, mismaintained and misoperated" its entire lifetime. [5/20/86, SB]

Two Rancho Seco workers are fired for drug abuse. They claim there is drug abuse throughout the plant.

1987

Two water leaks lead to the release of approximately 10,000 gallons of radioactive water, some of it flowing into the nearby creek, outside of the plant's boundaries...[3/28/89, Public Citation of Mishaps, NRC]

In 1987, SMUD pays more than \$350,000 in cash bonuses to fill positions at Rancho Seco. [7/10/88, SB]

"Rates have increased 84 percent since March 1985, leading to ratepayer dismay and a situation in which half of SMUD households pay more than if served by surrounding Pacific Gas and Electric Company. " [10/23/87, SB]

Chief of nuclear operations, John Ward, is fired despite reputation as a fixer of hopeless cases."It was like being in charge of the Keystone Kops," says Ward. [9/23/86]

1988

"Closing Rancho Seco is the option for the future of SMUD that makes the most sense." [3/2/88, Sacramento Bee Editorial Staff]

"The never-ending series of mishaps are beginning to look like a very high-budget Marx Brothers film, with Harpo in charge of warning the city should there be an emergency." [2/19/88, TV 40 Editorial Comment]

A SMUD-commissioned, \$824,000 QUEST study team recommends closure of Rancho Seco, saying that unstable operation of Rancho Seco could bankrupt SMUD.

Rancho Seco operates at less than 37%--even less than its lifetime capacity average of 39%. Rates have increased almost 92% since March 1985 due to Rancho Seco problems. [INPO]

The October 1988 SMUD bond prospectus states, "The District has concluded that terminating Rancho Seco in June 1989 would not have a materially adverse impact on the District's operations through December, 1999." [SMUD]

Measure B (to close Rancho Seco) loses on the June ballot by the narrowest of margins--only two votes per precinct. Measure C (to give Rancho Seco a trial run) barely passes.

Rancho Seco supporters promise stability and low electric rates for SMUD. However, immediately following the June 1988 election, SMUD General Manager Richard Byrne is fired, Rancho Seco chief of nuclear operations resigns and SMUD discloses the need for additional rate increases. Two SMUD chiefs get \$520,000 in severance pay and bonuses.

Former SMUD general manager Richard Byrne said he was "stifled, pressured and threatened by pro-Rancho Seco board members who wanted to keep potentially damaging information from reaching the public before the June 7, 1988 election. [6/18/88, SB]

SMUD gives out \$248,500 in bonuses to middle- and upper-level employees in May for "extraordinary service." About 80 percent (\$197,000 was awarded to Rancho Seco managers and the balance to employees at SMUD headquarters. [9/1/88,SB]

SMUD secretly paid out more than 970,000 in cash and benefits to eight managers who were forced to leave the utility during the past two years. [11/17/88, SB]

Operating Rancho Seco in 1988 cost nearly twice the amount it would have cost SMUD to have purchased the same amount of electricity from other utilities. [12/26/88, SU]

December 12--Operators try to restart Rancho Seco with malfunctioning valves. They rig the system in a manner for which there are no written procedures. One of two steam generators runs dry. NRC officials say operators took the plant through "uncharted waters" and showed poor judgment in handling the restart.

1989

On January 31 Rancho Seco shuts down. Two days later, radioactive gas is released into the environment. The plant is down for 45 days. Bill Chapin, Rancho Seco plant mechanical maintenance supervisor and co-chairman of the Rancho Seco Political Action Committee says, "I think there's no doubt, the Ranch cannot have another breakdown between now and June, politically speaking." A day after his quote, Rancho Seco goes down yet another time. [3/28/89, SB]

SMUD and PG&E contract ensures cheap, reliable power for Sacramento through 1999. [2/27/89, SU]

The nuclear industry's own Institute of Nuclear Power Operations prepares a report on the recent shutdowns at Rancho Seco, saying that Rancho Seco's prior operating history as well as recent shutdowns "cause us to have a renewed concern over the quality of Rancho Seco operations." [INPO]

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SMUD pays \$1,230 for one Rancho Seco employee's clothing as part of the "distinctive attire" program. Jackets, pants, shirts and ties have already cost \$72,000; laundry bills, \$2,500 a month--all ultimately paid by the ratepayers.

The plant comes to an abrupt halt (is scrambled) on the 10th anniversary of the Three Mile Island meltdown. High-level radioactive gasses are vented to the atmosphere. On April 8 the reactor is started, even though the cause of the March 28 accident has not been found and malfunctioning equipment (from the March 15 accident) has not been repaired. [3/29/89, SB, SU]

June 6th, 1989 Sacramento Citizens go to the polls and vote to permanently close Rancho Seco.

Sources: SB: Sacramento Bee, SU Sacramento Union xxx The above was a poster created for Measure K on June 6, 1989

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11) Continued seismic study is specific to "ensuring that Diablo Canyon continues" by not just extending the life span but providing an "after life" to Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant

<http://www.pge.com/myhome/edusafety/systemworks/dcpp/newsmedia/seismic/index.shtml>

Seismic Information
Seismic Safety

PG&E remains focused on ensuring that Diablo Canyon continues, and improves upon, its strong record of safe operations. This includes making the facility resilient to natural hazards, including earthquakes and tsunamis.

PG&E is the only utility in the country that employs a seismic department staffed with experts. The scientific staff continually studies earthquake faults in the region of the power plant and global seismic events as part of the plant's comprehensive safety program.

In November 2008, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), working in partnership with PG&E's geosciences department, discovered a new shoreline fault zone, and PG&E evaluated whether that new feature presented a safety risk to the plant. PG&E submitted its evaluation to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the commitment of its current operating licenses. PG&E's evaluation confirmed the plant has adequate safety margin to withstand maximum ground motions postulated to occur from faults in the region, including the shoreline fault.
Advanced Seismic Research

PG&E is currently conducting advanced seismic studies that will provide a more accurate and detailed picture of the region's complex geology. The research, called for by the state, will help further define the amount of ground motions that seismic faults in the region are capable of producing.

PG&E has made steady progress toward completing the studies since the research began in 2010. The on-shore work is nearly complete, the majority of the low-energy off-shore studies are finished, and the California Coastal Commission has approved PG&E's request to install ocean-bottom seismometers to detect seismic activity.

The company plans to undertake the final, off-shore high-energy study as soon as it obtains all necessary permits from various regulatory agencies, including the State Lands Commission, California Coastal Commission and County of San Luis Obispo. To address public concern regarding the seismicity of the area surrounding Diablo Canyon, PG&E has worked to expedite the permitting process so it can begin this study as soon as possible. PG&E is committed to conducting this work safely and in a manner with the least impact to the community and the environment.

Once the research is complete, PG&E will use the data to support its ongoing work to continually assess and validate the seismic design of the plant. PG&E will also share information collected with local public and government agencies so they can incorporate it into emergency preparedness plans and ensure the safety of critical infrastructure. The data will also be used to support federal requirements for new seismic risk evaluations following the Fukushima Daiichi power plant tragedy in Japan.
Seismic Studies Update

During the week of August 20, 2012, PG&E will resume low-energy seismic research work off portions of California's Central Coast.

PG&E began the first phase of this low-energy offshore study in 2010, and completed the second portion in 2011. The third phase will study areas near San Luis Bay, Estero Bay and Point Sal.

All operations will be performed during daylight hours and processes and procedures have been implemented to monitor and protect marine mammals while the study is underway.

Mariner and commercial boat traffic are encouraged to remain at least a mile away from the vessel while it operates in the area to avoid entanglement with research equipment. Daily updates on the location of the vessel can be found at www.marinetraffic.com using the search word "Pacific Star."
Seismic Information

August 2012 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 83 KB)
July 2012 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 83 KB)
June 2012 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 83 KB)
May 9, 2012 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 83 KB)
May 8, 2012 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 83 KB)

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April 2012 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 83 KB)
March 2012 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 81 KB)
February 2012 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 83 KB)
January 2012 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 82 KB)
December 2011 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 81 KB)
November 2011 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 83 KB)
October 2011 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 92 KB)
September 2011 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 91 KB)
August 2011 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 91 KB)
July 2011 Status Report to ASLB on Seismic Studies (PDF, 98 KB)
PG&E High Energy 3-D Seismic Scoping Presentation Before the State Lands Commission
California Coastal Commission's Report on DCP Safety From Tsunamis and Earthquakes (PDF, 661 KB)
NRC releases post-Fukushima 90 day report (PDF, 899 KB)

Seismic Survey Topics

NRC Related Correspondence
Ocean Bottom Seismometer Study
2D/3D Low Energy Marine Studies
3D High Energy Marine Studies
Fishing Reading Room
Diablo Canyon Newsroom

Unit 2 at PG&E'S Diablo Canyon Power Plant Safely Shut Down Following Electrical Disturbance
PG&E to Submit Modified Seismic Study Proposal to California Coastal Commission
PG&E Names New Diablo Canyon Site Vice President
PG&E Supports Cal Poly Athletics with \$20,000 Donation
View all News Releases

Articles and Perspectives About Diablo Canyon

San Luis Obispo County: PG&E Taking Extensive Measures to Protect Marine Life in Seismic Testing
Trails Near Diablo Canyon Plant Offer Stunning Views of Coastal Scenery
San Luis Obispo County: State Lands Commission Approves Seismic Testing
San Luis Obispo County: Delano Students Get an Insider's View of Diablo Canyon Power Plant
San Luis Obispo County: Diablo Canyon Powers Down after Sea Salp Migration

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12) We have NO comparisons to see if similar testing by oil companies have used this "similar testing" safely because not all have taken the same "multi-tiered monitoring program" approach.

<http://www.pgecurrents.com/2012/09/07/san-luis-obispo-county-pge-taking-extensive-measures-to-protect-marine-life-in-seismic-testing/>

with PG&E seeking approvals to conduct the final high-energy study, concerns have been raised about the affect the survey's high-decibel sounds will have on marine life. PG&E is mindful of these concerns, Strickland said, and is making every effort to mitigate potential impacts.

Other companies - including those in the oil industry - have used similar testing safely, he said. However, he said not all have taken the same "multi-tiered monitoring program" approach that PG&E has planned to protect marine life.

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13) There is insufficient scientific data to determine if the "ramping up" of sound to full power will drive marine mammals into the many coves off the Central Coast and aground.

<http://www.pgecurrents.com/2012/09/07/san-luis-obispo-county-pge-taking-extensive-measures-to-protect-marine-life-in-seismic-testing/>

we are going above and beyond what other companies have implemented to date," he said.

Diablo Canyon Power Plant

PG&E continues to take many steps to ensure and improve the safety of its Diablo Canyon Power Plant.

For example, before a survey track begins, a single air gun will sound at a low-level to warn marine life before ramping up to full power. The air gun sound will be managed or reduced based on the proximity of marine mammals to the survey boat. During the survey, a 180-decibel exclusion zone, and an even larger 160-decibel safety zone, will be established around the boat for the protection of marine mammals. The zones were established with help from the National Marine Fisheries Services.

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14) PG&E expects that there will be marine mammal stranding.

Draft Stranding Response, Diablo Canyon, California (PDF Attached)

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15) Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is NOT required to protect the "Nation."

<https://isearch.avg.com/search?cid={F6FBD5A1-DBED-4A16-AAEC-6CE53E47EE33}&mid=c0caaf6c40b547d6aa7141b2e00444d5-9e62f5f3df670fd2b1ece863d50da82cbe1f4817&ds=AVG&lang=en&v=10.2.0.3&pr=pr&d=2011-09-29%2011:12:48&sa p=dsp&q=beached+mammals+from+seismic+testing>

U.S. Navy Allowed to Use Sonar That May Harm Whales
Supreme Court Rules in Favor of U.S. Navy

By Jennifer Kennedy, About.com Guide
See More About:

- whales
- cetaceans
- conservation
- sonar

Updated January 16, 2009

In a case of national security once again trumping the environment, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on November 12, 2008 that the U.S. Navy could continue using high-powered sonar as part of its training exercises, possibly at the expense of whales and other marine mammals. This decision was made in a case of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) versus the Navy regarding the Navy's use of sonar in training exercises in southern California. The sonar is used to detect enemy ships, and the Navy argued that the sonar is needed to effectively train and protect the nation.

The decision overturns one made earlier in the year by a federal judge in Los Angeles that was upheld by a U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco that required the Navy to suspend the use of sonar if it detected a marine mammal within 2,200 yards, and when sea conditions allowed the sonar to travel farther than usual.

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pge2012_diablocanyon_stranding_response_draft.pdf

135K