

From: Greene, Eric
Sent: 6/3/2011 11:12:38 AM
To: Hughes, John (Reg Rel) (/O=PG&E/OU=Corporate/cn=Recipients/cn=J8HS)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: NRC issues safety evaluation report for DCP

John:

According to this article, today on June 3 the NRC replied to PG&E's April 10 letter requesting that the NRC delay issuing its final license extension approval for DCP until completion of the seismic imaging project.

Eric

Dow Jones - NRC Issues Final Safety Report For PG&E Diablo Canyon Reactor

By Cassandra Sweet, June 3

PG&E Corp. (PCG) moved a step closer Thursday in its bid to run the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant another 20 years after the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a final safety evaluation report for the company's plan.

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In the 736-page report, the NRC detailed its evaluation of PG&E's plan for managing the aging equipment and processes of the plant and concluded that the company's plan meets federal requirements.

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On Wednesday, the agency agreed to delay issuing a final decision on PG&E's application to renew the reactor's operating license until the company completes three-dimensional seismic surveys of the earthquake-prone area around the plant. PG&E had asked the agency for the deferral last month, amid pressure from state and local officials.

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The license renewal process includes a safety review and an environmental review.

Local residents have grown increasingly concerned about PG&E's plans to operate the plant past 2024 and 2025, when its current licenses expire, after a powerful earthquake and tsunami in March hit Japan's coastline, crippling a reactor and causing an ongoing nuclear crisis.

The Diablo Canyon plant sits on an 85-foot bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean in San Luis Obispo. It is within three miles of two earthquake faults, one of which was discovered in late 2008. More than 400,000 people live within 50 miles of the plant.

Since 2008, the California Energy Commission and state lawmakers have asked the company to perform more rigorous testing to assess earthquake risks before applying for the license renewal.

PG&E filed its application to renew the plant's operating licenses in November 2009 and said that it would modify the plant based on any new findings from the seismic testing.

In its final safety report on Thursday, the NRC said that PG&E had met federal requirements for longer-term operation of the plant, and that the company had either fixed problems the agency had earlier pointed out, or promised to fix them.

PG&E "has identified actions that have been or will be taken to manage the effects of aging in the appropriate safety systems, structures and components of the plant, and that their functions will be maintained during the period of extended operation," the NRC said in the report.

The agency told PG&E to provide results of its ongoing seismic survey, and said that it would modify the safety report "as necessary" based on the results of the survey.

In March, a company official said PG&E had started seismic mapping of shallow areas in October and that it planned to apply for a permit to perform deep mapping down to 10 kilometers below the surface.

The Diablo Canyon plant and Edison International's (EIX) San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station on the southern California coast provide about 12% of the state's power.