

## Public Hearing on Spent Nuclear Fuel Management

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Next week, the Diablo Canyon Decommissioning Engagement Panel will hold a public hearing on perhaps the most important topic regarding decommissioning the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant: how to manage — for decades and more to come — the spent, radioactive nuclear fuel generated by past and future plant operations (until the reactors close in 2024/2025).

The hearing will be held at 6 pm on 3/13/19 (Wednesday) at the SLO County Government Center. The agenda is attached.

The choices as to how and where to store the spent fuel are limited by the fact that there is no permanent repository in existence for US spent fuel. Yucca Mountain in Nevada was expected to be open for this purpose, but that is currently off the table.

There are proposals to construct consolidated, privately owned, interim spent fuel storage facilities in New Mexico and Texas (where, for example, spent fuel from Diablo Canyon and San Onofre could be moved). Is this the right answer? What do you think?

Currently, the spent fuel assemblies from Diablo Canyon nuclear energy generation operations are first placed in on-site pools and then later transferred (several years later) to dry casks up the hill. The transfer process has been put on temporary hold; PG&E has stated that this is desirable so that cooler fuel assemblies currently in the pool are available to help cool the hotter assemblies that will be added to the pools when the last transfers of spent fuel into the pools are made at decommissioning. This is expected to result in a nearer-term end-date when all spent fuel is moved out of the pool to dry casks. Others disagree with this approach, arguing that the safest approach is to get the assemblies out of the pools ASAP, even if it means that a smaller number of assemblies are left in the pool until a later date when the pool is finally empty. (It's more complicated than this, but that's the gist of the two perspectives.) What do you think? What do the experts say?

These are some of the topics to be addressed next week. We'll hear from PG&E, Dr. Butnitz (who serves on the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee), and members of the public.

Please be a part of this critical discussion facing this community and future generations. And please, too, pass this along to others who may be interested.