



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001**

July 1, 2015

Steve Henry  
Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, CA 93003

**SUBJECT:** NOTICE OF INTENT TO REINITIATE THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING  
PROCESS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE DIABLO CANYON POWER PLANT,  
UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION; PROJECT  
CONSULATION CODE: 08EVEN00-2015-SLI-0245

Dear Mr. Henry:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing an application submitted by Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) for the renewal of the operating licenses for Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP), Units 1 and 2. The application for renewal was submitted in a letter dated November 23, 2009, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 54. If approved, the NRC's issuance of the renewed licenses would authorize PG&E to operate DCPP for an additional 20 years beyond the current licensing periods, which expire on November 2, 2024 (Unit 1), and August 26, 2025 (Unit 2).

The purpose of this letter is to provide you and your staff with information on the NRC's National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) process and opportunities for public comment and involvement. This letter also provides information on the status of the NRC's review of impacts to species that are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), and their critical habitats.

Project Description

DCPP is a two-unit pressurized water reactor nuclear plant. Each of the units is licensed to produce 3,411 megawatts-thermal. The DCPP site lies adjacent to the Pacific Ocean in San Luis Obispo County, California, approximately 12 miles west-southwest of the city of San Luis Obispo. The site encompasses 750 acres of land near the mouth of Diablo Creek. PG&E controls approximately 165 acres of coastal property north of Diablo Creek and 585 acres of land adjacent to and south of Diablo Creek. The site is bounded on the west by the Pacific Ocean. To the northwest, the site is bordered by the Montana de Oro State Park. To the north and south, PG&E owns and leases approximately 12,000 acres of land for livestock grazing. These 12,000 acres are not part of the DCPP site.

The proposed DCPP license renewal would include continued operation and maintenance of DCPP's two nuclear-powered electrical generating units. The principle structures on the site include two reactor containment buildings and related structures, a switchyard, office buildings,

warehouses, parking lots, equipment storage facilities, an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation, and a storage facility for an old steam generator. PG&E does not plan to construct any new buildings or transmission lines, undertake any other land-clearing or ground-disturbing activities, or otherwise alter current operating conditions during the license renewal term.

DCCP's cooling water is supplied through a once-through cooling system that draws seawater from and discharges heated effluent to the Pacific Ocean. During full power operations, DCCP circulates approximately 2.45 billion gallons of seawater per day through the main steam condensers. Heated effluent from the main condensers of each unit combines and flows through a common shoreline outfall. Once discharged, the thermal effluent mixes with the receiving water and dissipates across the ocean surface. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region regulates station discharges to the Pacific Ocean under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0003751.

The DCCP site and cooling system is further described in PG&E's Environmental Report (ER) dated November 24, 2009 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML093340123), ER Amendment 1 (ML14364A259), dated December 22, 2014, and ER Amendment 2 (ML15057A102), dated February 25, 2015.<sup>1</sup>

#### NEPA Process and Scoping

The NRC has established that, as part of the review of any nuclear power plant license renewal application, a site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its *Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants*, NUREG-1437, will be prepared pursuant to 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC's regulation that implements NEPA. The SEIS documents the NRC staff's independent analysis of pertinent environmental issues, including impacts to fish and wildlife and Federally listed species.

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 51.29, the NRC staff conducted a public scoping process to aid in the identification of issues to be considered in preparation of the SEIS. The scoping process was completed on April 12, 2010. By letter dated May 31, 2011, prior to issuance of a draft SEIS, the NRC informed PG&E that it would delay completion of further milestones associated with the environmental review of the DCCP license renewal application to allow PG&E time for the completion of certain seismic studies to address concerns raised during the State of California's Coastal Zone Management Act consistency review. On December 22, 2014, and February 25, 2015, PG&E amended its environmental report to incorporate additional information necessary for the NRC staff to complete its review of the DCCP license renewal application.

On April 29, 2015, the NRC staff issued a revised schedule for the completion of the DCCP license renewal application review. Because of the length of time since the completion of the original scoping period, the NRC staff has prepared a Notice of Intent advising the public that the NRC intends to reopen the scoping process to aid in the identification of issues that may have emerged in the interim. You and your staff are invited to participate in the environmental

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<sup>1</sup> References with ADAMS accession numbers can be accessed through the NRC's web-based ADAMS search engine at <http://adams.nrc.gov/wba/>. Click on the "Advanced Search" tab and choose the following criteria under Document Properties: "Accession Number" in the Property box, "is equal to" in the Operator box, and the ADAMS Accession Number of the document in the "Value" box.

scoping process. As discussed in the enclosed *Federal Register* notice (Enclosure 1), the NRC staff is providing the public with the opportunity to participate in two environmental scoping meetings to be held on August 5, 2015. The meetings will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott San Luis Obispo, 1605 Calle Joaquin Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405. The first session will be held in the afternoon, and the second session, covering the same subjects, will be held in the evening. The afternoon session will be from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and the evening session will be from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The NRC plans to hold a one-hour open house prior to each meeting. In addition, during the week of September 28, 2015, the NRC staff plans to conduct a site audit at DCP, which you and your staff are invited to attend.

The anticipated publication date for the draft SEIS is August 2016. Your office will receive a copy of the draft SEIS along with a request for comments.

#### Federally Listed Species and Habitats

To ensure compliance with the ESA, the NRC staff will consider effects of the proposed license renewal on Federally listed species and their habitats during the staff's NEPA review. The NRC corresponded with your office regarding Federally listed species prior to the delay in the environmental review. In a letter dated March 10, 2010, the NRC requested a list of species that could be affected by the DCP license renewal. In a letter dated May 13, 2010, the FWS responded to this request and provided NRC with a list of species under its jurisdiction. In a letter dated December 27, 2010, the FWS provided NRC with an updated list of species that could be affected by the project.

On May 12, 2015, the NRC generated an updated list of species from the FWS's Information Planning and Conservation (IPaC) system. The IPaC list is attached for your reference as Enclosure 2. The updated list reflects a revision to the scope of the NRC's review of the transmission lines since the staff restarted its review. Because the proposed license renewal would not require PG&E to construct new transmission lines or upgrade existing lines and because all existing lines would remain energized regardless of license renewal, the NRC is no longer considering transmission lines beyond the onsite DCP switchyard to be part of the proposed action.

The NRC will consider the species identified in the IPaC list in its assessment of impacts resulting from the proposed license renewal. If during the environmental review, the NRC staff determines that the proposed license renewal "may affect" any listed species or critical habitat, the NRC will either: (1) request your concurrence with a "not likely to adversely affect" determination under the provisions of 50 CFR 402.13, or (2) request formal consultation under the provisions of 50 CFR 402.14 if effects are not discountable, insignificant, or beneficial.

If you or your staff have any further information concerning Federally listed species or critical habitats on or near the DCP site that might assist the NRC at this preliminary stage of the staff's review, please provide such information as part of the NEPA scoping process.

S. Henry

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Conclusion

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding the project, please contact Briana Grange, Biologist, by phone at 301-415-1042 or by e-mail at [briana.grange@nrc.gov](mailto:briana.grange@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

***/RA Kevin Folk for/***

David J. Wrona, Chief  
Environmental Review and  
Guidance Update Branch  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-275 and 50-323

Enclosures:

1. Federal Register Notice
2. IPaC List of Species

cc w/encls: Listserv

S. Henry

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Conclusion

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding the project, please contact Briana Grange, Biologist, by phone at 301-415-1042 or by e-mail at [briana.grange@nrc.gov](mailto:briana.grange@nrc.gov).

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**DISTRIBUTION:** See next page

**ADAMS Accession Nos.: ML15133A462 (package), ML15133A286 (letter)**  
**Enclosures: ML15140A594 (FRN) and ML15132A423 (IPaC Species List)**

\*concurred via email

OFFICE	LA:DLR*	AB:RERB:DLR	AB:RERB:DLR	BC:RPB2:DLR	BC:RERB:DLR
NAME	SWoods	BGrange	MMoser	BWittick	DWrona (KFolk for)
DATE	06/04/15	06/09/15	06/17/15	06/18/15	7/1/15

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

Letter to Stephen Henry from David J. Wrona dated July 1, 2015

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WWalker, RIV

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VDricks, OPA

WMaier, RIV

AMoreno, OCA

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