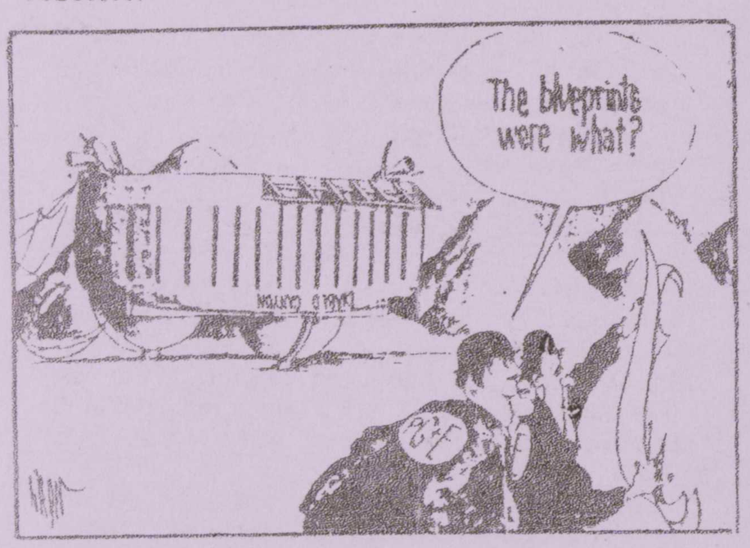
1970-Shell Oil seismologists Hoskins and Griffiths charted the Hosgri fault 2½ miles from Diablo Canyon. PG&E claimed not to have heard of the report until 1972.

1973-PG&E lied that there was no new seismic information about Diablo at environmental impact hearings in February. The AEC claimed it 1st learned of the fault when PG&E mentioned it in a report. Further investigations were then quietly called for. The public was told of the fault for the 1st time when an investigative reporter discovered the information and had it printed in the L.A. Times. The coastal Sierra Club members' lawyer, who had been pushing for further seismic investigations from 1967, committed suicide shortly after hearing of the fault.

1976-The AEC, now called the Nuclear Regulatory Commission(NRC), finallly forced PG&E to rebuild the foundations of Diablo Canyon after the U.S.G.S refused to downgrade the estimated potential size of future quakes at Diablo. The reactors were nearly complete at the time.

1979-The accident at Three Mile Island awakened public fears of reactors, forcing stronger regulations on construction and operation of commercial reactors.



1981-Reagan's push to speed-up reactor licensing helped spark the largest U.S. civil-disobedience at a commercial reactor to date after the NRC gave PG&E a license for Diablo. The last day of the action, a 25 year old engineer discovered that earthquake pipe supports for the two reactors had been installed backwards. A stunned NRC removed PG&E's operating license of the now $2.1 billion reactor complex.

1982-PG&E was caught doctoring its consultant's report to the NRC. PG&E was then forced to redesign and rebuild the reactors for a third time. PG&E's license to dump 2.67 billion gallons daily of hot, radioactive and chemically contaminated water into Diablo Cove was revoked by a local water board(power politics later reversed the decision).

1984-6,000 supposedly corrected errors plus 13,000 of 27,000 pipe support corrections later, PG&E, was once again granted another license. During reconstruction, the financially strapped company, which had 1/3 of its total assets tied up in the project, was given $1.3 billion in tax free polution control bonds by the EPA just because they built the containment structure around the reactors. The Mothers for Peace filed an injunction against start-up of the reactor, demanding that promised seismic hearings be held first. This failed because the NRC refused to release their secret transcripts of seismic discussions, claiming it would effect national security. Unit 1 went critical, ending any chance of conversion possibilities.

1985-The secret NRC transcripts were leaked to the press. Later Congressional investigations showed that the NRC broke federal laws in using an off-the-record record seismic study by PG&E in deciding to license Diablo Canyon. The Chair of the Congressional subcommittee labeled the licensing of Diablo another Watergate. Unit 1 went commercial on May 7th. The Mothers filed for another appeals court hearing and succeeded, but the court allowed unit 2 to continue operating.

1986-Drug scandals rocked the facility as dozens of workers were forced to quit. Unit 2 went full power in March. On April 25th, the day before Chernobyl, the court decided not to look at the leaked NRC transcripts and used the same off-the-record material in its assertion that no seismic hearings were necessary because the chance of a quake were unlikely. The majority opinion was written by Judge Robert Bork(now in line for a Supreme Court position), Nixon's infamous solicitor general that fired Archibald Cox during the Watergate scandals. PG&E and the NRC, due to high level waste storage problems, try to increase the amount of waste storage at Diablo Canyon by 5 times, as well as storing it for 30 years after shutdown of the reactors. And the story goes on....

... OUR LAST CHANCE

The 3rd and final phase of the hearings will require PG&E to prove that the $5.5 billion they spent for constructing Diablo were legitimate and thus chargeable to the ratepayers. The difference between their position and that of the PUC staff will be legally fought out before a PUC judge. If the judge acts as he has done in the last 2 parts of the hearings, he will probably go half way between the $1.1 and $5.5 billion positions. This will be unacceptable to opponents of Diablo and to PG&E, with both filing appeals that will probably end up in the now conservative state supreme court.

Only part of the issues described in the Diablo story will be touched on unless smaller parties like TURN or the Alliance are able to force a deeper analysis. The Commission has also said it is willing to hear a case that would show that Diablo is not economically viable. The catch is that the burden of proof would be on us, with PG&E spending a fortune to undermine us. No one would be financially capable of seriously challenging Diablo. Barring a miracle or another dissaster, it is likly that the operation of Diablo Canyon over the next 30 years, if it lasts that long, will cost us $40 billion from start-up to shutdown.

PG&E and its powerful allies in the media and the legislature, have successfully removed Diablo from public debate. Our role will be to draw the public back into the controversy. The ultra-conservative-pro-nuclear agenda that has decimated public opposition to Diablo needs to be publicly revealed. PG&E is a majr donar to the Pacific Legal Foundation, who tried to sue us out of existance after our 1981 blockade at Diablo. Even one of the PUC Commissioners was forced to resign last year as it came out he was doing consulting for PG&E. The company also tried to sneak its 20 year financial plans to another Commissioner showing their plans to spend $87 billion and double the size of the utility by 2004.

With the Diablo site designed to hold 5 reactors, and the knowledge that PG&E has done everything possible to keep their nuclear option open, including attempts to overturn state laws and PUC decisions before the U.S. Supreme Court, these hearings might be our last chance to head off PG&E's move to force its visions of the future on us. Letters to state legislators and PUC Commissioners are needed calling for an investigation into the economic viability of Diablo Canyon. Letters to the media demanding a full presentation to the public of Diablo's sordid history would help also. Tell your friends! Help us keep the pressure on! Shut Down Diablo! No More Chernobyls!

For more information on what you can do contact:

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