



BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN  
NUCLEAR DANGERS & A SAFE,  
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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## 2014 Annual Report

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## COURT BLOCKS RADIOACTIVE WASTE SHIPMENTS TO UNLICENSED SITES Toxics Agency Under Fire

RADIOACTIVE DEBRIS FROM TEARING DOWN BUILDINGS AT the Santa Susana Field Laboratory's nuclear area was shipped over the past few years to metal and concrete recyclers and disposal sites not licensed for radioactive waste, including Buttonwillow, long a site of environmental injustice in California's Central Valley. A Bridge the Gap report revealed these actions by Boeing, which were approved by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. The report triggered a lawsuit by CBG, ConsumerWatchdog, PSR-LA, and the S. Cal. Federation of Scientists. The Sacramento Superior Court has issued a preliminary injunction barring DTSC from approving such radioactive shipments, pending final ruling on the merits.

DTSC has been the subject of numerous revelations of scandal, mismanagement, and other failures to protect the public from toxic pollution. The DTSC Director resigned under fire; the Legislature held oversight hearings at which CBG testified; the news media has exposed a pattern of capture by the industries it is to regulate. CBG continues its work to reform DTSC so that the public is protected from polluters rather than the other way around.

### Join CBG's Urgent Action Email List

From time to time we need your help to send urgent action emails to ensure that our voices are heard - on SSFL, Diablo Canyon and more. Please sign on to our urgent action list and help increase our impact by sending your name and email address to [contact.cbg@gmail.com](mailto:contact.cbg@gmail.com). **THANK YOU!**

Our apologies to those who received donation envelopes with the wrong address last year.

**Please note our new mailing address!**

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CBG is a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit Organization - contributions are tax deductible.

Check our website at [www.committeetobridgethegap.org](http://www.committeetobridgethegap.org)  
It's a great way to keep abreast of breaking developments and CBG in the news.



# DIABLO CANYON: FUKUSHIMA ON THE CALIFORNIA COAST?

by Dan Hirsch,  
CBG President

THE LATE GREAT environmentalist David Brower once defined the term nuclear reactor as "a complex technological device for locating earthquake faults in California." It seems whenever a nuclear plant was built in the state, major faults were thereafter discovered nearby. This was due largely to the failure of the nuclear



Diablo Canyon

industry, abetted by its captured regulators, to look seriously for such faults before construction. When subsequently found, they downplayed their significance.

The Fukushima nuclear disaster resulted from an earthquake far larger than the plant had been designed to withstand. Regulators, too close to the industry they were supposed to regulate allowed the industry to pretend that only a small earthquake could occur, so as to save money in construction. Nature didn't go along with the fiction.

For similar reasons, the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, with ten thousand times the long-lived radioactivity of the Hiroshima bomb sitting on the Central California coast, is a Fukushima waiting to happen. When it was designed and built, Pacific Gas & Electric and its friendly regulators asserted there were no active earthquake faults within 20 miles, and constructed it

accordingly. We now know there are at least four such large faults nearby.

In 1970, during the construction permit proceeding, PG&E blocked consideration of evidence of an offshore fault and got its permit. When Diablo was 80% complete, a huge offshore fault, the Hosgri, was discovered nearby. Rather than abandon the plant or spend the money to upgrade adequately, PG&E sharpened its pencils and argued that it should instead be allowed to use a bunch of fudge factors to downgrade the estimated ground motion.

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# FOUR FAULTS AND YOU'RE OUT

## DIABLO CANYON- CONTINUED

But even the minimal upgrades were screwed up. The two Diablo reactors were built to mirror-image blueprints of each other and—you guessed it—when they got around to putting in the seismic upgrades, weak as they were, they used the wrong blueprints for each unit and put the pipe supports and whip restraints in all the wrong places and had to do it all over again.

But, PG&E and the NRC assured us it was highly unlikely that there were any undiscovered active faults nearby, and it wasn't possible that the Hosgri connected to other faults. Such connections would make a larger rupture possible.

Three new faults have now been found to be active close to Diablo Canyon. To top it, the then Senior Resident Inspector at Diablo for NRC formally concluded that, based on PG&E's own estimates, the potential ground motion from these faults exceeded the requirements of the license and the plant should be shut down. Associated Press recently revealed his Dissenting Professional Opinion, which had been kept secret by NRC for a year.

Now PG&E has reluctantly issued new seismic studies ordered by AB1632 (Blakeslee). The findings are stunning: The Shoreline Fault is twice as long as previously

thought, capable of a much larger earthquake. The Hosgri Fault is connected to the San Simeon Fault, making it much more dangerous. The Hosgri and the Shoreline are also connected, making an enormous quake possible a mere 600 meters from the plant.

PG&E has been in a lot of trouble recently associated with the San Bruno natural gas pipeline explosion and resulting deaths. It has been indicted by a federal grand jury; there are accusations of safety shortcuts and false statements. Extraordinary PG&E emails have been revealed showing that they improperly contacted regulators to get an administrative

judge they didn't like removed from their case and replaced with someone favorable to them. Senior PG&E and regulator officials have had to resign. Is this the kind of company we want running nuclear reactors?

Bridge the Gap has been in the midst of this fight over the future of the last remaining nuclear plant in California. It is a race against time. A massive quake, larger than the plant is capable of withstanding, could occur any moment. It is time to phase out Diablo and promptly transition to safe, renewable alternatives.

## CBG NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Your generous donations make this vital work possible! Please write a check or give online at [www.committeetobridgethegap.org](http://www.committeetobridgethegap.org)

# IN MEMORIAM

CBG MOURNS THE PASSING OF DR. RICHARD SAXON on August 1st at the age of 90. Richard and his wife, Pauline, who has been a CBG board member for over 40 years, played an essential role in CBG's work for decades. As a physician, Richard lent his expertise as CBG confronted 3-Mile Island, Chernobyl, the proposed radioactive waste dump at Ward Valley, and the existential threat of nuclear weapons. In addition to their work with CBG, Richard and Pauline co-founded Physicians for Social Responsibility-LA – an organization that has long worked in partnership with CBG. CBG's President Dan Hirsch said, "Richard left behind a world made safer and healthier by his work. He recognized as few others have that the nuclear arms race and associated enterprises pose extraordinary risks to the continuation of life as we know it, and that only by extraordinary acts of commitment to reversing those risks do we have a chance as a species. He was a great friend and great man. He will be missed for his gentleness, fundamental sense of decency, his wry sense of humor, and above all his unflinching commitment to reverse the nuclear threat."



# SANTA SUSANA FIELD LAB UPDATE

by Cindi Gortner, CBG Board Member

IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATED the victory of signed agreements called Agreements of Consent (AOCs) between the state of California's toxics regulatory agency, the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), and NASA and DOE to provide our community with a thorough protective cleanup of the polluted Santa Susana Field Lab. Where are we four years later under the Brown administration? The lobbyists employed by Boeing at the outset of Brown's third term appear to have been gleefully checking off items on their to-do list in an apparent attempt to overturn the celebrated cleanup agreements. Seemingly working for the polluter rather than public, the DTSC pulled off a devastating trifecta of blows by 1) shutting down the community workgroup that had been holding the agencies accountable and keeping the public informed for decades, 2) sidelining the project director who had co-written the cleanup agreements and would have worked to enforce them and 3) establishing a community advisory group comprised of people opposed to the cleanup agreements.

Although the community is faced with the daunting task of a captive state agency and the lobbying might of Boeing, there have been several successes and we are gaining momentum as of late. Liza Tucker of the consumer advocacy group, Consumer Watchdog, prepared a scathing 55 page report outlining the infiltration of Boeing into the DTSC and the impact it's had on the cleanup efforts. As the situation has gotten dire, it has reinvigorated the Rocketdyne Cleanup Coalition, of which CBG

is a founder, to work even more fervently to advocate for a real cleanup and there is now new leadership.

I was honored to testify this September at an oversight hearing of the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee presided over by Assemblyman Luis Alejo. The Center for Race, Poverty and Environmental Justice has created the People's Senate, a group of residents from DTSC impacted sites who want DTSC reformed, to push collectively for genuine change in the state agency. At the hearing, I was able to explain to the committee the need for new leadership which can clean house of employees aligned with the polluter's interests.



Cindi Gortner, CBG Board Member

With the help of Physicians for Social Responsibility, we were able to revive the quarterly community workgroup meetings. Dan Hirsch's UC Santa Cruz student interns presented shocking and compelling new data about the clean up; perchlorate in the water in Simi Valley; the water pollution violations; the difference in AOC's cleanup and Boeing's proposed lax levels; and how radioactive material was being illegally removed from the site and taken to non-licensed facilities, including local recyclers. With renewed support, we were able to defeat a resolution proposed by the cleanup opponents to the Calabasas Environmental Commission. The fight continues.

# HIGH LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE: OK TO JUST LEAVE WHERE IT IS SAYS NRC

Claims Human Institutions Will Watch Over it for 500,000 Years

FOR DECADES, THE NUCLEAR Regulatory Commission has asserted it has "confidence" that a deep geological repository for irradiated nuclear fuel will soon open. Deadline after deadline passed, and NRC kept issuing new "waste confidence" statements, whose deadlines also turned out not to be real. Nonetheless, NRC, based on that misplaced confidence, kept issuing new licenses for reac-

tors to produce more and more of the extraordinarily toxic waste for which there is no disposal solution.

In 2012, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia threw out NRC's waste confidence rule and ordered it to conduct an environmental review of the implications if no facility ever opened. NRC responded in 2013 by issuing an astonishing

environmental impact statement which concluded there would be no problems if the waste just remained in place forever where it was generated. The core of NRC's claim was the astonishing assertion that the NRC and other human institutions would remain in existence to guard over, repackage, and otherwise safely maintain the waste for as long as it is dangerous –

about half a million years.

Bridge the Gap prepared a major paper detailing why such an assumption is specious. "50 Years of Power, 500,000 Years of Radioactive Waste" was submitted as part of the NRC proceeding and may be a major portion of the legal challenge being filed to the NRC's action. To read the paper, go to our website: [www.committeetobridgethegap.org](http://www.committeetobridgethegap.org)