

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ENERGY DIVISION

**Agenda ID #24188
RESOLUTION E-5460
June 11, 2026**

R E S O L U T I O N

Resolution E-5460. Confirmation of candidates for appointment to the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (DCISC) for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026.

PROPOSED OUTCOME:

- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) ratifies the CPUC President’s selection of candidates for consideration by the Governor of California for appointment to the DCISC.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- The DCISC reviews operations at Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s (PG&E) Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) for the purpose of assessing the safety of current operations and suggesting recommendations for continued safe operations. The appointed candidate will serve a three-year term on the DCISC.

ESTIMATED COST:

- All ongoing DCISC costs were funded previously. Ratification of the CPUC President’s selection of candidates for appointment to the DCISC will not result in any additional costs.

As required by D.23-08-004, dated August 10, 2023.

SUMMARY

The Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (DCISC) consists of three members, each appointed in turn by the California Governor, the California Attorney General (AG), and the Chair of the California Energy Commission, serving staggered three-year terms. Section 1.B of the Third Restated Charter for the DCISC describes the process for appointment of DCISC members: it requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) to select and forward to the appointing authority no more than three new candidates plus the incumbent for DCISC membership. The appointing authority for the current cycle is the Governor of California. This Resolution ratifies the CPUC President's selection of Dr. Per F. Peterson (incumbent), and Dr. Michael Quinn as candidates for appointment to the DCISC, for a three-year term commencing on July 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND

Establishment of the DCISC and Member Selection Process:

The CPUC created the DCISC in Decision (D.) 88-12-083 as part of the overall settlement of ratemaking issues for the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP), which is owned and operated by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). Senate Bill (SB) 846 (Dodd, 2022), signed into law by Governor Newsom on September 2, 2022, primarily requires the CPUC to consider the potential extension of operations at the DCPP, but also calls for the DCISC to continue operations through such time as all spent nuclear fuel has been moved to dry storage at the DCPP Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation, and that the DCISC continue to make findings and recommendations appropriate to enhance the safety of the operation of the DCPP.¹

The DCISC is an independent, three-member committee responsible for monitoring the safety of PG&E's operation of DCPP. The DCISC conducts site visits at the DCPP, holds public meetings, and issues an annual report summarizing its activities and reviews of DCPP operations and provides findings and recommendations regarding DCPP operational safety. The DCISC's budget for 2026-2027 is primarily paid out of the SB 846 Non-Bypassable Charge by ratepayers from all Load Serving Entities.² D.88-12-083 established the qualifications and procedures for appointment of members

¹ Pub. Util. Code Section 712.1.

² PG&E Advice Letter 6870-E/6870-E-A as approved by Resolution E-5299; Pub. Util. Code Section 712.8(l)(1).

to the DCISC and defined the scope of the Committee's operations and responsibilities.³ Membership on the DCISC is a compensated position.⁴

On October 24, 2006, the DCISC submitted Application (A.) 06-10-024 proposing a restated charter. The CPUC adopted the Restated Charter in D.07-01-028 on January 25, 2007. Submission of a Second Restated Charter was authorized in Ordering Paragraph 3 of D.21-09-003 on September 9, 2021, and approved in Advice Letter 6361-E on December 9, 2021. Submission of the Third Restated Charter was authorized in Ordering Paragraph 4 of D.23-08-004 on August 10, 2023, and approved in Advice Letter 7034-E on September 25, 2023.⁵

Section 1.B of the Third Restated Charter describes the process for appointment of DCISC members. It requires the CPUC to select no more than three candidates for DCISC membership from among those applicants responding to an open request by the CPUC for applications. The incumbent member whose term is about to expire is to be deemed an additional candidate if they consent. The CPUC is charged with the responsibility to provide for public comment on the applicants' qualifications and potential conflicts of interest. The President of the CPUC is to review the applicants' qualifications, experience, and background, including any conflicts of interest,⁶ together with any public comments, and propose as candidates to the appointing authority only persons with knowledge, background, and experience in the field of nuclear power plants and nuclear safety issues. The Energy Division prepares a draft resolution ratifying the CPUC President's selection of candidates for the Commission.

³ D.88-12-083, Appendix C, Attachment A; *See also* Pub. Util. Code Sections 712.1(c) and (e).

⁴ In Resolution E-3152, the Commission established that DCISC member compensation be set at levels commensurate with fees paid by PG&E for comparable services.

The compensation levels set in E-3152 have since been revised several times, most recently in D.23-08-004. The current compensation levels were affirmed on April 1, 2025, in PG&E Advice Letter (AL) 7553-E as follows: annual retainer of \$10,800; \$270/hour fee for attendance at DCISC meetings; \$270/hour fee for DCISC work performed outside of committee meetings in excess of 40 hours/year; and reimbursement of expenses incurred in performance of DCISC work.

⁵ The approval of Advice Letter 7034-E and the text of the Third Restatement of the Charter for the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (in Attachment 2) are available at:

https://www.pge.com/tariffs/assets/pdf/adviceletter/ELEC_7034-E.pdf.

⁶ As conflicts of interest are a legal question, their review was conducted by the CPUC's legal department which the President then approved.

Current Applicants:

On January 09, 2026, an open request for applications to fill the July 1, 2026, vacancy on the DCISC was posted on the CPUC's website.⁷ An application was timely received from Dr. Michael Quinn. In addition, Dr. Per F. Peterson, the incumbent member of the DCISC whose term is set to expire, sent a letter to the Energy Division confirming his willingness to continue serving as a member of the DCISC.

Dr. Peterson provided a synopsis of his technical experience and professional activities relating to applied and fundamental topics related to nuclear technology. Dr. Peterson's work has covered topics in nuclear fusion energy, fission reactor design and safety analysis, nuclear waste management, and fundamental topics in heat transfer and fluid mechanics. Dr. Peterson was originally appointed to the DCISC in 2004, by then Attorney General Bill Lockyer. Dr. Peterson's seventh term on the DCISC is set to expire on June 30, 2026.

In Dr. Michael Quinn's application, he describes his experience working in the nuclear power industry, and consulting on nuclear operations and safety for industry clients as well as the U.S. and Canadian governments. Dr. Michael Quinn was previously selected by the Commission as one of the qualified candidates considered for appointment.⁸

Public Comments on Applicants:

On February 19, 2026, an announcement was posted on the CPUC's website and emailed to the relevant service lists inviting comments on the candidates.⁹ Summaries of their qualifications were included with the announcement. All public comments received for the candidates are included in their entirety in Appendix B of this Resolution. In the paragraphs below, where a commenter submitted comments as the representative of an organization or group, that organization or group is identified in parentheses.

⁷ A link to the announcement posted on the CPUC's website was sent to the service lists of A.21-12-007, R.23-01-007, and A.24-03-018 to ensure that parties interested in issues relating to the DCPD were aware of the announcement. A.21-12-007 is PG&E's 2021 Nuclear Decommissioning Cost Triennial Proceeding; R.23-01-007 is the Rulemaking implementing SB 846; A.24-03-018 is PG&E's 2025 DCPD Extended Operations Forecast.

⁸ See CPUC Resolution E-5329 (June 20, 2024) and CPUC Resolution E-5399 (June 12, 2025).

⁹ A link to the announcement was also sent to the service lists of A.21-12-007, R.23-01-007, and A.24-03-018. See footnote 7 above.

Comments in support of Per F. Peterson's reappointment were submitted by Dr. Robert Budnitz. The supporting comments emphasize Dr. Peterson's extensive and quality experience serving on the DCISC, his outstanding qualifications, reputation as an expert in nuclear power plant safety, and engineering honors.

Comments in support of Dr. Michael Quinn's appointment were submitted by Steven Crowe, Michael Fecht, Matthew Sunseri, Richard Swanson (Performance Management Initiatives), Rochelle Becker (Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility), and Lucy J Swanson (San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace). The supporting comments highlight Dr. Michael Quinn's breadth of experience including his work in plant operations, nuclear safety, and decommissioning, and with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); his integrity; and his independence.

NOTICE

Notice of this Resolution was made by publication in the CPUC's Daily Calendar. A copy of the Draft Resolution was sent to all of the applicants and to those submitting comments on their behalf. A copy of the Draft Resolution was also sent to the Governor and to the service lists of PG&E's 2021 Nuclear Decommissioning Cost Triennial proceeding (A.21-12-007), A.24-03-018, and R.23-01-007, the Commission's Rulemaking implementing SB 846.

DISCUSSION

The third restated charter adopted in D.23-08-004 and Advice Letter 7034-E requires that candidates for appointment to the DCISC be persons with knowledge, background, and experience in the field of nuclear power facilities and nuclear safety issues who demonstrate they have no conflicts of interest.¹⁰ The discussion below details CPUC President John Reynolds' determinations as to the qualifications of each candidate.

Summaries of the qualifications of each applicant are included in Appendix A of this Resolution.

¹⁰ Conflicts of interest guidelines are set forth in Section I.C of the second restated charter. They establish limits for DCISC members on income and gifts from PG&E or an affiliated company, and investments in PG&E or an affiliate. They also prohibit members of the DCISC from attempting to use their position to influence an action of the Committee about which they have a financial interest. DCISC members are required to file a Statement of Economic Interest in the same manner as designated CPUC employees. No person shall serve on the DCISC who has a prior history of supporting or opposing PG&E as a witness or intervenor in nuclear licensing or CPUC proceedings associated with the DCPF.

Dr. Per F. Peterson is qualified to continue to serve on the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (DCISC).

Dr. Per F. Peterson is an incumbent member of the DCISC, having been appointed to his initial term from 2004 through 2007 by then-Attorney General Bill Lockyer. Following his first term, Dr. Peterson was appointed by the Governor of the State of California for six subsequent three-year terms beginning in 2008. In addition to his service on the DCISC, Dr. Peterson is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Nuclear Engineering at UC Berkeley and holds the William and Jean McCallum Floyd Endowed Chair. He also serves as the part-time Chief Nuclear Officer for Kairos Power, where he advises on the development of fluoride-salt-cooled high-temperature reactor technology.

Previously, Dr. Peterson served as the Executive Associate Dean of the College of Engineering at UC Berkeley from 2015 to 2017, and has also chaired both the Department of Nuclear Engineering and the Energy and Resources Group. Earlier in his career, he worked for Bechtel National, Inc., designing systems for processing high-level nuclear waste. His extensive advisory background includes serving as a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future and the National Academies Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board. Dr. Peterson is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society. He earned his Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1988.

Dr. Peterson has no conflicts of interest, having received no income, gifts, or investments from PG&E or its affiliates. His qualifications demonstrate the requisite knowledge, background, and experience in the field of nuclear power plants and reactor safety to continue his service on the committee.

Dr. Michael Quinn is qualified to serve on the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee.

Dr. Michael Quinn has been continuously engaged in the nuclear industry for over 45 years: currently, he leads evaluations on nuclear operations reliability and conduct of operations, and since 2006 teaches U.S. NRC inspectors and technical staff on evaluating elements of nuclear licensee performance and safety culture. Since 1999 he has engaged as an operations evaluator and consultant to the U.S., Canadian commercial nuclear power industry, and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), evaluating significant nuclear events, regulatory compliance, program rigor, and facilitating performance improvement; during the 24 years prior he held director-level positions in the power

block of a nuclear unit within a large nuclear utility. His experience includes developing and delivering root cause evaluation training to NRC staff; leading significant issue evaluations at four ISFSI sites; refueling operations events at five nuclear plant sites; Dr. Michael Quinn has also led teams that developed and implemented corrective actions to address significant operational events at over 30 nuclear facilities/units – including the nuclear fuel melt at the National Institute of Standards and Technology – and has performed evaluations for three regulators in the U.S. and Canada. He has led teams in evaluating, developing, and implementing programs to establish a safety culture at commercial nuclear power facilities and the U.S. DOE. Dr. Michael Quinn has experience facilitating the transition of nuclear plant staff to permanent shutdown: focusing on operational compliance and reliability, staff retention, addressing concerns, and facilitating a healthy nuclear safety culture and safety conscious work environment. Dr. Michael Quinn has taught nuclear safety event causal analysis to the U.S. NRC, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, and the Japan Nuclear Regulation Authority. Dr. Michael Quinn earned a Doctorate of Science in Organizational Management Systems and an Executive Master of Business Administration degree, both from the University of New Haven, and a B.S. in Chemistry from Charter Oak College. He previously held a U.S. NRC Senior Reactor Operator License on a Westinghouse pressurized water reactor, and is a Certified Root Cause Investigator and Radiation Safety Officer.

Dr. Michael Quinn has no conflicts of interest that would preclude his serving on the DCISC. His qualifications show that he has knowledge, background, and experience in the field of nuclear power plants and nuclear safety issues.

As required by D.23-08-004 and Advice Letter 7034-E, President Reynolds has reviewed the qualifications, experience, and backgrounds of Dr. Per F. Peterson, and Dr. Michael Quinn and, finding them qualified to serve on the DCISC, chooses to provide their names to the Governor of California as candidates for appointment to the DCISC for the three-year term beginning July 1, 2026.

COMMENTS

Public Utilities Code section 311(g)(1) provides that this Resolution must be served on all parties and subject to at least 30 days public review. Any comments are due within 20 days of the date of its mailing and publication on the Commission's website and in accordance with any instructions accompanying the notice. Section 311(g)(2) provides that this 30-day review period and 20-day comment period may be reduced or waived upon the stipulation of all parties in the proceeding.

The 30-day review and 20-day comment period for the draft of this resolution was neither waived nor reduced. Accordingly, this draft resolution was mailed to parties for comments, and will be placed on the Commission's agenda no earlier than 30 days from today.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. Decision (D.) 88-12-083 created the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (DCISC).
2. Senate Bill (SB) 846 continued the DCISC requiring that the DCISC continue operations through such time as all spent nuclear fuel has been moved to dry storage at the DCPD Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation and that it continues to make findings and recommendations appropriate to enhance the safety of the operation of the DCPD.
3. The DCISC is an independent, three-member committee responsible for monitoring the safety of PG&E's operation of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant.
4. D.07-01-028 adopted a restated charter for the DCISC including revised procedures for appointments of DCISC members.
5. D.21-09-003 ordered the submission of a second restated charter in an advice letter. The second restated charter for the DCISC was submitted in Advice Letter 6361-E and approved on December 9, 2021.
6. D.23-08-004 ordered the submission of a third restated charter in an advice letter. The third restated charter for the DCISC was submitted in Advice Letter 7034-E and approved on September 25, 2023.
7. On January 09, 2026, in accordance with D.23-08-004 and Advice Letter 7034-E, an announcement was posted on the CPUC's website seeking applications for the July 1, 2026, vacancy on the DCISC.
8. The Governor of California is the appointing authority for the July 1, 2026, vacancy on the DCISC.
9. Dr. Per F. Peterson, the incumbent member of the DCISC whose term expires on June 30, 2026, responded to the CPUC's January 09, 2026, announcement and consents to being a candidate for reappointment to the DCISC.
10. Dr. Michael Quinn, a professional nuclear energy consultant, responded to the CPUC's January 09, 2026, announcement, and submitted an application to be considered as a candidate for appointment to the DCISC.
11. The CPUC invited comments on Dr. Peterson's, and Dr. Michael Quinn's qualifications in an announcement posted on the CPUC's website on February 18, 2026.

12. Comments supporting the appointment of Dr. Peterson's, and Dr. Michael Quinn, to the DCISC were received in response to the CPUC's February 18, 2026, announcement inviting comments.
13. The CPUC's President, John Reynolds, has reviewed the qualifications, experience, and backgrounds of Dr. Per F. Peterson, and Dr. Michael Quinn.
14. Dr. Per F. Peterson, and Dr. Michael Quinn have knowledge, background, and experience in the field of nuclear power plants and nuclear safety issues and are qualified candidates for appointment to the DCISC.
15. President John Reynolds has chosen to provide the names of Dr. Per F. Peterson, and Dr. Michael Quinn as candidates for appointment to the DCISC for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026.
16. President John Reynolds' selection of Dr. Per F. Peterson, and Dr. Michael Quinn, as the candidates for appointment to the DCISC for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026, should be ratified and provided to the Governor of California.

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. President John Reynolds' selection of Dr. Per F. Peterson, and Dr. Michael Quinn as qualified candidates for consideration by the Governor of California for appointment to the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026, is hereby ratified.

This Resolution is effective today.

Commissioner Signature blocks to be added
upon adoption of the resolution

The foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted at a conference of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on _____; the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

Dated _____, at <Voting meeting location>, California

APPENDIX A

The following statements were supplied by the applicants as part of the application process and were available for public review and comment starting on February 18, 2026. The assertions of fact contained within these statements have not been disputed. These statements are provided verbatim.

Dr. Per F Peterson (Incumbent)

I am a professor in the Department of Nuclear Engineering at U.C. Berkeley, and serve part time as Chief Nuclear Officer at Kairos Power. My attached CV provides a detailed summary of positions I have held. Prior to beginning graduate studies, I worked in industry on the design of nuclear facilities.

I am a member of the National Academy of Engineering. My research and publications cover both applied and fundamental topics related to nuclear technology. My work and over 300 research publications have covered topics in nuclear fusion energy, fission reactor design and safety analysis, nuclear waste management, and fundamental topics in heat transfer and fluid mechanics that are relevant to these applications. I am frequently called upon to serve on advisory panels for the federal government, the national laboratories and the National Academies on topics related to nuclear technologies, as well as expert panels at academic conferences and workshops. I am currently a member of the National Academies Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board.

Since 2003 I have been active in research and development for a novel high temperature reactor technology now called fluoride salt cooled high temperature reactors (FHRs). Initial work with universities and national laboratories showed the technology has promise to have high intrinsic safety, precluding accidents that can have off-site consequences as can and have occurred with existing water cooled reactors. In 2012 the Department of Energy funded a large research project with UC Berkeley, MIT and UW Madison, which was successful in establishing the scientific and technical basis for design and licensing of this new class of high temperature reactors. In 2017 I joined, on a part-time basis, the start up company Kairos Power formed to further develop this FHR technology. I currently continue to teach and supervise research at UC Berkeley while working part time at Kairos, and remain active also as a member of the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee.

I have taught extensively in courses related to reactor design and safety. This includes the undergraduate courses NE-161, Nuclear Power Engineering, and NE-170, Nuclear Design, as well as the graduate courses NE-260, Thermal Aspects of Nuclear Reactors NE-267, Nuclear Reactor Safety, and NE-275, Risk Assessment. The NE-161, NE-260, NE-267, and NE-275 courses cover all theoretical and practical aspects of nuclear reactor safety.

In 2017 I stepped down from my position as Executive Associate Dean of the College of Engineering, and am also a former chair the Department of Nuclear Engineering and of

the Energy and Resources Group, at U.C. Berkeley. I am a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society and a former chair of its Thermal Hydraulics Division. I previously chaired the Radiation Safety Committee for the University of California, Berkeley, which is regulated by the California Department of Public Health and is responsible for reviewing all authorizations for radioactive materials and radiation producing machines used in research on the Berkeley campus, and chaired of the Reactor Safeguards Committee for the Aerotest Research Reactor in Pleasanton, California until 2017.

Dr. Michael Quinn

Dr. Michael Quinn has several decades of comprehensive commercial nuclear power experience that entail independently evaluating, overseeing, and/or operating at commercial nuclear power and/or government nuclear reactor sites. His hands-on experience includes:

- Currently: Chair of the *Connecticut Nuclear Energy Advisory Council (NEAC)*, which is responsible for independent oversight of the two-unit Millstone Nuclear Power Station and the Connecticut Yankee (Haddam Neck Site) Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). NEAC reports to the Governor of the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut General Assembly. Dr. Michael Quinn was appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Connecticut Senate
- Currently: Nuclear Evaluator. During the past 20 years Dr. Michael Quinn has been, and is currently, an independent nuclear power operations evaluator; during which time his experience has included on-site evaluation of nuclear operational and organizational performance at over 40 nuclear generating units in the US and Canada, as well as on research reactors and US Department of Energy nuclear facilities
- Currently: Instructor to the US NRC. Since 2006 (four successive five-year contracts), Dr. Michael Quinn and his Team has taught over 600 US NRC inspectors and technical staff how to evaluate nuclear plant licensee event evaluation performance, engaging the USNRC Reactor Oversight Program's Inspection Procedures 95001, 95002, and 95003; seven cornerstones; and three cross-cutting areas of human performance, safety culture, and Problem Identification & Resolution (contracted into 2029)
- Previously: 25 years in operating and senior site management roles at two nuclear power stations, earning a Senior Reactor Operator's License (SRO) on a Westinghouse PWR (Diablo Canyon is a Westinghouse PWR). While at Millstone Nuclear Station, Michael was a member of the station recovery team that developed and commissioned nuclear safety & safety conscious work environment (SCWE) programs to support restart after a several year USNRC-directed shutdown

Dr. Michael Quinn has a demonstrated history to prescriptively and effectively communicate his independent evaluations, reports, and recommendations in objective, balanced, empirically-based, plain language to a broad spectrum of stakeholders. His recommendations and corrective actions address the 1) substantive problems, 2) the causal factors that enabled the problems, and 3), the processes that should have identified and addressed the causal factors at an earlier, safer, more risk-compliant time.

Michael has delivered his independent assessments to federal and state agencies, state and federal regulators, utility commissions, Boards of Directors, nuclear utility executives, nuclear plant staff, external interest groups, and the public. He has presented findings in closed and open settings, as well as in public forums with regulators, town hall attendees, and public stakeholders.

EDUCATION:

Doctor of Science (Sc.D.) Organizational System Dynamics - University of New Haven
Master of Business Administration - University of New Haven
BSc. Chemistry - Charter Oak College
BA General Studies Biology - University of Connecticut

LICENSURE and CERTIFICATIONS

- U.S. NRC Senior Reactor Operator License #10071 Westinghouse Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR)
- Certified Event Causal Analysis Investigator by:
 - Nuclear Safety Review Concepts Event Evaluation (Phoenix Method) and,
 - FPI/ PII Prevention and Reduction of Nuclear Organizational and Programmatic Failures
- Certified Radiation Safety Officer

On a Personal Note:

Dr. Michael Quinn is a four-decade American Red Cross blood donor, during this time donating 16 gallons.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/quinnmd/>

Google Scholar Link: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=IFjU6ncAAAAI>

END OF APPENDIX A

APPENDIX B

The following are all of the public comments submitted regarding the applicants for the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee. The comments are grouped by candidate and are provided verbatim. Four respondents who provided support letters for Dr. Michael Quinn in 2025 used the same letter the Commission had on file to again provide support to Dr. Michael Quinn in 2026. Those letters contain references to the 2025 vacancy but are in support of Dr. Michael Quinn's 2026 candidacy.

Comments on the Qualifications of Dr. Per F Peterson

Robert J. Budnitz
734 The Alameda
Berkeley CA 94707
home telephone (510)527-9775
email: budnitz @ pacbell.net

22 February 2026

Nominations

c/o Jonathan Wardrip, Energy Division, California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
By email to <jonathan.wardrip@cpuc.ca.gov>

SUBJECT: Letter (public comment) in support of Per F. Peterson, DCISC

I am writing this letter to support the reappointment of Per F. Peterson to the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (DCISC). I was a member of the DCISC for 18 years (mid-2007 to mid-2025), until I rolled off just a few months ago. I was the Attorney General's appointee, starting with my first appointment by then-Attorney General Brown. I was reappointed by AG Brown for another term in mid-2010, reappointed again in mid-2016 by Attorney General Harris, reappointed again in mid-2019 by AG Becerra, and again in 2022 by AG Bonta.

Per Peterson was a DCISC member from 2004 to 2007, appointed by former Attorney General Lockyer. He has then served six more 3-year terms (2008 to 2011, 2011 to 2014, 2014 to 2017, 2017 to 2020, 2020 to 2023, and 2023 to the present), these after having been appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger, reappointed in 2014 and 2017 by Governor Brown, and in 2020 and 2023 by Governor Newsom. His current term will end in June 2026, and he is now up for reappointment again.

Professor Peterson's qualifications are outstanding. He currently is a professor of nuclear engineering who holds the William and Jean McCallum Floyd Chair in the Department of Nuclear Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. He has served twice as that department's chairman.

Dr. Per Peterson is also a co-founder & Chief Nuclear Officer of Kairos Power, a relatively new company that is at the forefront of developing a new advanced-reactor design, much smaller than the nearly 100 US operating reactors, for future deployment in the next several years. It is a so-called "small modular reactor" and its technical development has been, in major ways, led by Dr. Peterson.

Per Peterson has an international reputation as one of the outstanding experts in nuclear power plant safety. In recognition of his outstanding professional accomplishments, Peterson was elected in 2020 to membership in the U.S. National Academy of Engineering. This honor is probably the highest honor available to any

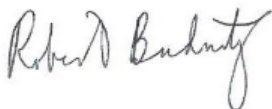
American engineer, and it accurately represents the high esteem, peerless stature, and lifetime achievements that characterize him. He has published widely, and he is also famous as a leading nuclear-engineering educator. His publications and influence in the field are very broadly recognized as first-rate. He was also honored when, in 2010, he was asked to serve on President Obama's "Blue Ribbon Commission on American's Nuclear Future," established to provide technical and policy advice to the administration and the Congress on long-term policies to assure that nuclear energy's future both domestically and abroad is as safe and as proliferation-resistant as it needs to be. He served with distinction on that Commission through publication of its final report in 2012.

In 2011, in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami-caused nuclear reactor accident at Fukushima, Japan, Dr. Peterson was asked by the U.S. Secretary of Energy, Dr. Steven Chu, to serve on a small *ad hoc* 5-member "science advisory team" that advised on how best the U.S. Government as a whole could respond with its resources to assist the Japanese in understanding the accident, securing the safety of the installation, and assuring the safety of the nearby populations. This assignment, which lasted for about 6 months, was at the highest level and advised the entire U.S. Government, including the White House, the President's Science Adviser, the military, the US Department of Energy, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. (I was honored to be another of the 5 members of that special "science advisory team.") Dr. Peterson's outstanding knowledge, sound critical thinking, and keen advice played a major role in helping to assure that the U.S. Government as a whole provided the best available advice and equipment to assist Japan. I saw this first-hand, because as noted I was another member of that small advisory team.

I have known Per Peterson for many years, but for the purposes of this letter I wish mainly to emphasize the excellent quality of his service with me on the DCISC, over my 18-year period on the DCISC. He has brought strong experience in nuclear safety, and a very broad knowledge of how nuclear plants work and how safety is achieved. He is 100-percent impartial in his judgments. He has been very effective in interacting with members of the general public who attend our DCISC public meetings, who have gone on our DCISC-sponsored tours of the Diablo Canyon power plant, and who write letters to the DCISC on various matters. He also has an excellent understanding of how a review committee like the DCISC can be most effective in carrying out its mission of helping to inform the State of California about the safety of the power plant at Diablo Canyon.

His service on the DCISC has been exemplary. In my view, his reappointment to the DCISC would be a great service to the citizens of California.

Sincerely,



[original signed by Robert J. Budnitz]

Comments on the Qualifications of Dr. Michael Quinn



ALLIANCE FOR NUCLEAR RESPONSIBILITY

PO Box 1328
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
(805) 704-1810
www.a4nr.org

March 12, 2026

Jonathan Wardrip
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
Energy Division, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Via email: jonathan.wardrip@cpuc.ca.gov

Re: Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee
Appointment of Dr. Michael Quinn—SUPPORT

Dear Mr. Wardrip:

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility would like to support the nomination of Dr. Michael Quinn to the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (DCISC) as the appointee of the Governor.

The Alliance's mission includes monitoring ratepayer investments to improve safety and mitigate environmental damage from the operation of the state's last aging reactor. The DCISC is charged with monitoring safety oversight at Diablo Canyon. However, as their charter is a creation of the CPUC, no less an obligation should be their consideration of ratepayer impacts—and safety comes with a price tag—one that PG&E should not be short-changing to enhance its own bottom line.

The current situation at Diablo Canyon calls for as great a degree of oversight as any time in its history. The next two years will see a tremendous amount of renovation and maintenance work undertaken as part of the plan to extend operations beyond the original license expirations in 2024/2025. As complex equipment and systems are upgraded and replaced these processes also bring with them the well-established "bathtub curve"—the start and end of life periods—which portend greater susceptibility to failure.

For example, as presented at the February 2026 DCISC meeting, upcoming major projects at DCNPP include the main annunciator replacement, a vital part of control room operations. Dr. Quinn is the only candidate—and would be the only DCISC member since 2008—to have had actual plant operation experience having held an NRC licensed Senior Reactor Operator credential specifically for a Westinghouse PWR such as Diablo Canyon. To put it more bluntly, Dr. Quinn would be on the only DCISC member who had the actual permission to *push* the control room

buttons the other DCISC members can only observe. While it is true that the candidates have histories studying nuclear science and safety, Dr. Quinn's resume' stands out for its added emphasis on *practical* experience. There is a role for the study of probabilistic risk and the lessons to be learned; however, a committee composed solely of *academic* advisors cannot have the pragmatic insights of an actual licensed senior reactor operator.

That is why the Alliance welcomes the candidacy of Dr. Quinn to the DCISC. Today, faced with the dual issues of an extended NRC license renewal *and* the specter of needing to quickly resume the decommissioning process *should* the extension be legislatively forestalled, only his resume' indicates specialized training and experience in both areas of concern.

Another qualification from Dr. Quinn's C.V. also merits attention: he is and has been serving in an analogous role in his home state of Connecticut.

- Currently: Chair of the *Connecticut Nuclear Energy Advisory Council (NEAC)*, which is responsible for independent oversight of the two-unit Millstone Nuclear Power Station and the Connecticut Yankee (Haddam Neck Site) Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI). NEAC reports to the Governor of the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut General Assembly. Dr. Quinn was appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Connecticut Senate.

The human performance aspects of nuclear power operations are likely to be looming as large as the technical considerations in these next few years due to the aforementioned major upgrades, workforce attrition and onboarding of newer workers should operations be extended beyond 2030. For the past 20 years Dr. Quinn has been an independent nuclear power operations evaluator and also an instructor at and for the US NRC. The experiences of a candidate such as Dr. Quinn in identifying and working to mitigate any shortcomings that could impact reactor operations and public safety would be welcomed by ratepayers and stakeholders alike.

Dr. Quinn's tenure at nuclear plants in Connecticut includes the time during which those facilities transitioned from operation to decommissioning. Diablo's decommissioning is inevitable—and accelerated if its operation concludes in 2030. As such, his experiences will be valuable; those decommissioning experiences are not found in the CVs of any other candidate.

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility endorses Dr. Michael Quinn for appointment to the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee.

Yours truly,

/s/

ROCHELLE BECKER
Board President
Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

cc: David Zizmor, CPUC

Dear Sir,

I am honored to have the opportunity to provide comments on the qualifications of Dr. Michael Quinn. I have worked in the nuclear industry for over 48 years with experience in reactor operations, training, maintenance, start-up, troubled plant recovery, and coordination of oversight for TVA's nuclear plants. I am a graduate of the United States Naval Academy who qualified as a Nuclear Engineer in the Naval Reactors Program.

For the past 8 years, I have had the honor to work with Dr. Michael Quinn on multiple projects involving recovery of troubled plants and organizations. Dr. Michael Quinn is the ideal candidate for appointment to the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee. His far-ranging knowledge of nuclear operations and management of nuclear safety issues is evident based on his continuing professional successes. He has an SRO license and years of experience in identification and correction of safety issues. He is a recognized expert in root cause analysis as well as nuclear safety culture assessment and implementation. His recent experience includes leading teams to identify performance issues at the Waste Isolation Pilot Project (nuclear facility storing transuranic waste) and to evaluate the state of the nuclear safety culture at the NIST NCNR reactor facility (NRC licensed facility).

As TVA's Nuclear Safety Review Board coordinator during the restart of Sequoyah and Browns Ferry Nuclear Plants, I had the opportunity to interact with each member of our off-site review committees. Dr. Michael Quinn would have been a welcome addition.

Most recently, I have had the opportunity to observe Dr. Michael Quinn's ability to assess complicated organizational and technical issues at high hazard nuclear facilities. He has the unique ability to be able to identify issues, capture their significance, and develop recommendations to correct the issues. His knowledge of NRC regulations is unsurpassed. He has an excellent relationship with NRC personnel and management having instructed many of them in the NRC root cause analysis course. Specifically, he and his team are the exclusive instructors teaching NRC personnel how to assess and review the adequacy of root cause submittals to the NRC. Dr. Michael Quinn is well spoken and is sensitive to the importance of his reports and how they impact public perceptions. I have witnessed his outstanding ability to effectively communicate to all levels of management and external stakeholders.

Dr. Michael Quinn's ability to lead teams is unparalleled. He functions at a high level, is energetic, and ensures all team members are heard. He has demonstrated mastery of capturing the data inputs, processing the information and communicating all critical items to the customers and regulators in a manner that promotes understanding of important issues. He is excellent at identifying issues that could potentially lead to future problems and has a history of developing corrective actions to resolve the potential issues. He is candid, personable, and has the unique ability to see and understand the "big picture" issues and needs. I am honored to have worked with him.

In short, I cannot think of a better person than Dr. Michael Quinn for the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee. He will make an immediate positive impact if chosen for the position.

Steven K. Crowe, Captain, USNR (ret)

Michael J. Fecht
2675 Old Bethel Rd.
Chickamauga, Georgia 30707
(423) 618-5994

David Zizmor, Esq.
Public Utilities Regulatory Analyst
California Public Utilities Commission _ Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, Ca 94102
(415) 703-1575

2025 Nomination of Dr. Michael D. Quinn, Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee

Mr. Zizmor,

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Michael D. Quinn for consideration as a member of the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (DCISC). With over 50 years of experience in the nuclear industry—including roles in nuclear operations, quality assurance, and service on oversight committees such as the Nuclear Safety Review Board (NSRB) at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)—I understand the importance of selecting individuals with the right expertise and leadership for this critical role.

I first met Dr. Quinn six years ago during an independent assessment of a nuclear facility, where I was immediately impressed by his analytical skills and deep understanding of nuclear safety culture. Prior to that, I was already familiar with his work alongside Dr. William Corcoran in nuclear industry root cause analysis. Since then, I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Quinn on two Nuclear Safety Culture facility assessments, where his leadership was instrumental in the success of each effort. Based on my extensive experience, I can confidently say that Dr. Quinn possesses the qualifications necessary to make a meaningful contribution to the DCISC.

Dr. Quinn's broad expertise in the nuclear power industry equips him with the technical and analytical skills required for effective oversight of facilities like Diablo Canyon. Having observed both exemplary and ineffective oversight practices throughout my tenure with TVA, I recognize the critical need for individuals who understand both the technical and operational challenges of nuclear facilities. Dr. Quinn's background ensures he can navigate these complexities while maintaining a steadfast commitment to safety.

Beyond his nuclear industry experience, Dr. Quinn has also served on a local community nonprofit board, where his leadership, integrity, and ability to foster productive discussions were evident. His dedication to safety, accountability, and sound decision-making extends beyond his professional work and into public service.

In summary, Dr. Quinn's extensive experience, analytical expertise, and commitment to nuclear safety make him an outstanding candidate for the DCISC. His appointment would enhance the committee's oversight capabilities and reinforce its mission to ensure the integrity and security of Diablo Canyon. I strongly support Dr. Quinn's candidacy and encourage his consideration for this esteemed position.

Should you require any further information regarding Dr. Quinn's qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Michael Fecht



P.O. Box 3608
San Luis Obispo, CA
93403
mothersforpeace.org

March 10, 2026

Jonathan Wardrip
California Public Utilities Commission
Via email: Jonathan.wardrip@cpuc.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Wardrip,

San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace (MFP) supports the nomination of Dr. Michael Quinn to the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (DCISC) as the appointee of the Governor of California.

Mothers for Peace's mission includes monitoring safety and mitigating environmental damage from the operation of the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant. The DCISC is charged with monitoring safety oversight at Diablo Canyon, and with PG&E once again applying for license renewal until the year 2045 the need for qualified, unbiased members on the Committee is crucial.

MFP supports the candidacy of Dr. Quinn to the DCISC. His resume stands out for its emphasis on independent assessments, nuclear safety culture, and root cause analysis. Dr. Quinn is knowledgeable about the Diablo Canyon plant, having earned a Senior Reactor Operator's License during his career. He has extensive experience as a Nuclear Evaluator with experience at over 40 different sites.

MFP believes it is important that those serving as Committee Members of the DCISC be regularly replaced to ensure that objectivity and independence is not eroded by years of interaction with PG&E employees. Dr. Peterson has served a total of 17 years on the Committee, and MFP looks forward to the responsibility of the position being handed off to another well-qualified applicant, in this case Dr. Quinn.

MFP has welcomed the recent appointments of Dr. Meshkati and Dr. Scarlat. Members of MFP have attended recent public meetings and have appreciated hearing their fresh views, questions, and perspectives. The participation of these two recent appointees increases our confidence in the work of the DCISC.

San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace endorses Dr. Quinn for appointment to the DCISC.

Yours truly,
Jane Swanson, President
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace

janeslo@icloud.com

Matthew W. Sunseri
11495 FM 1486 Rd.
Richards, Texas 77873

David Zizmor, Esq.
Public Utilities Regulatory Analyst
California Public Utilities Commission – Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 703-1575

March 4, 2025

2025 Nomination of Dr. Michael D. Quinn, Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (DCISC)

Dear Mr. Zizmor,

I am Matthew Sunseri, a nuclear industry professional for over 40 years. I have served as president and chief nuclear officer at a commercial nuclear operating company in the US before retiring. As an industry consultant currently, I serve as chairman of an independent safety board for a nuclear facility in Canada, and I also am a member and former chair of a statutory required governmental safety committee in the US. I am writing to you not in those official capacities but as an individual member of the public.

I have known Dr. Quinn for quite a long time, am familiar with his work and worked with him on a project. He would be an excellent contributor as a member of the DCISC for the following reasons.

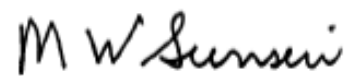
Dr. Quinn has twenty-five years of nuclear power plant experience. I have observed in my career that highly effective safety oversight individuals all possess a common factor. They understand the business and technology that they are reviewing. Dr. Quinn's experience positions him to provide excellent oversight of an operating nuclear power facility such as Diablo Canyon.

Dr. Quinn has twenty years of consulting experience primarily in event and organization analysis. This experience enables Quinn to know how to ask the right questions at the right time in order to make the most effective use of the committee's precious time at the operating facility. The fact that Dr. Quinn also teaches analysis techniques demonstrates his proficiency with these skills.

Dr. Quinn has served as a board member and chairman of a local community not-for-profit board. In this service, Dr. Quinn demonstrated his ability to create a safe environment for discourse, to achieve consensus among the members and to produce results. I expect that these skills will enable Dr. Quinn to work very effectively with the three member DCISC.

In closing, Dr. Michael D. Quinn possess the background, skills and abilities to be an effective member of the DCISC, and I highly support his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M W Sunseri". The letters are cursive and fluidly connected.

Matthew W. Sunseri



Performance Management Initiatives, Inc.

Richard N. Swanson
President

720 S. Greenbrook Circle
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

voice: (269) 428-7447
mobile: (773) 230-8989
email: RNS@pmi-inc.com

March 02, 2025

California Public Utilities Commission, Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

Attn: Mr. David Zizmor

Subj: Nomination of Dr. M. D. Quinn for membership on the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee

Dear Mr. Zizmor:

I am writing in support of Dr. Michael D. Quinn's candidacy for a position on the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee. I have known Dr. Quinn for approximately 19 years and have worked closely with him on several analytical, oversight, and instructor assignments associated with **nuclear safety performance** at US nuclear power plants.

In my considered professional opinion, Dr. Quinn is well-suited to be a member of an Independent Safety Committee for a nuclear plant by virtue of his professional credentials, his education, his work experience, his impeccable work ethic, and his scrupulous ethics. I highly recommend him.

FORMAL CREDENTIALS include:

- Senior Reactor Operator License #10071;
- Certification as a Radiation Safety Officer;
- Certification as a Root Cause Investigator and Trainer;
- Certification to conduct Behavioral Interviews.

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS include:

- Doctor of Science (**Sc.D.**) in Organizational Management Systems;
- Masters of Business Administration (**MBA**);
- Bachelor of Science (**B.S.**) in Chemistry;
- **Numerous technical training courses** related to the nuclear industry such as:
 - Emergency Planning
 - Emergency Response Assessment
 - Nuclear operations
 - Radiation protection
 - Welding

INSTRUCTIONAL COURSE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERIES include developing and delivering training courses to:

- **US NRC Resident Inspectors** regarding **how to evaluate investigation reports** (prepared by Nuclear Plant personnel) of plant events with nuclear safety significance (four consecutive contracts, 2006 through present);
- Nuclear plant personnel regarding **how to conduct Root Causal Analysis (Event Investigation) of plant events** having safety significance;
- Safety Conscious Work Environment (**SCWE**); and
- **Nuclear Safety Culture**.

WORK EXPERIENCE includes **almost 50 years** of hands-on and oversight assignments in the nuclear industry.

- **25 years' experience at nuclear generation plants** in positions such as:
 - Director of Station Emergency Operations;
 - Director of Station Services;
 - Chemistry Manager;
 - Project Manager;
 - Chairman of the Plant Operations Review Committee;
 - Chairman of the Corrective Actions Review Board;
 - Member of the Nuclear Safety Assessment committee;
 - Nuclear Refueling and Maintenance Outage Manager;
 - Radio-Chemist and Manager of Planning and Operational Standards.
- **Executive level nuclear consultant for the past 24 years**, providing services to the nuclear industry that included:
 - Root Cause Analysis/Event Investigation;
 - Safety Culture evaluations;
 - Recovery plans for deficient safety cultures;
 - Nuclear program and reliability assessments;
 - Corrective Action Program diagnostics and remedial actions;
 - Many other assessments of performance-limitations

Virtually all of his consulting assignments involved interacting with, reporting results to, and providing performance advice to senior utility executives.

Dr. Quinn conducts both his professional and personal life on the basis of **scrupulous ethics**. His technical and managerial work products, and his behavior, meet the highest standards of integrity. He **verifies his facts and data** before reaching conclusions and makes extensive use of "peer checks" and "independent verification." He is able to explain the **detailed basis for every conclusion and finding of fact** he produces. He takes his responsibility to support nuclear safety very seriously and demonstrates his commitment through **exemplary professional behavior** at all times. If he does not know the answer to a question, he says so—and then finds out. If he is provided with additional facts he had not previously considered, he reconsiders his conclusions based on both the old and new information. He is not only "truthful" ('tells the truth'), he is also "**honest**" ('tells the entire set of relevant facts and the context in which they apply'). I have personally observed on several occasions that, when justified by his observations, his feedback to

individuals in senior positions includes “tough” messages regarding substandard performance and less than adequate personal executive involvement.

I have been a senior manager at several nuclear plants in the course of my 53-year career, and have managed several departments, including Engineering, Quality Assurance, Regulatory Affairs, and Construction. When it comes to describing the individual I would most value to independently assess my areas of responsibility and tell me the painful reality regarding what I really need to know about my organization, Dr. Quinn is the exemplar.

Dr. Quinn is one of only six individuals with whom I am willing to team on consulting assignments—**he meets my standards for integrity, persistence, reliability, broad-based knowledge, and ‘internalized curiosity.’**

I highly recommend him. If you would like to further discuss my personal observations of Dr. Quinn’s performance, I would be honored to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard N. Swanson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard N. Swanson, P.E. (License Retired)

END OF APPENDIX B