

Invitation for Public Comment on

**Dr. Per F. Peterson, and Dr. Michael Quinn**

As Candidates for Appointment to the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee  
Term: July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029

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On January 09, 2026, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) announced it was seeking applications from qualified persons to become nominees to fill a vacancy on the Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Committee (Committee) for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2026.

The Committee consists of three members, one each appointed by the Governor, the California Attorney General, and the Chair of the California Energy Commission (CEC). The Committee assesses the safety of the operations of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant and has authority to review quarterly reports and conduct on-site inspections. The Committee reports its observations and recommendations to PG&E annually; the Committee then transmits its report, along with PG&E's response, to the Governor, Legislature, the California Attorney General, the NRC, CEC, and the CPUC.

According to the procedures adopted by the Commission in Decision 07-01-028, updated in D.23-08-004 and PG&E Advice Letter 7034-E,<sup>1</sup> and codified by SB 846 in Public Utilities Code § 712.1(c), the President of the CPUC selects no more than three qualified candidates responding to the request for applications, plus the incumbent member whose term is expiring if the incumbent consents to reappointment. The CPUC will issue a resolution ratifying the President's selection of candidates for appointment. The Governor of California shall appoint the Committee member for the term beginning on July 1, 2026, from the list of candidates selected by the President of the CPUC and ratified by the Commission.

Applications were received from Dr. Per Peterson, and Dr. Michael Quinn in response to the CPUC's January 09, 2026, announcement. Their qualifications are summarized below.

The CPUC welcomes public comments on the qualifications of Dr. Peterson, and Dr. Quinn. Please e-mail comments to [jonathan.wardrip@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jonathan.wardrip@cpuc.ca.gov).

**Comments must be received via e-mail by March 18, 2026.**

**Dr. Per F. Peterson**

I am a professor in the Department of Nuclear Engineering at U.C. Berkeley, and serve

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<sup>1</sup> PG&E Advice Letter 7034-E approving the third restatement of the DCISC Charter as authorized in D.23-08-004 is available at [https://www.pge.com/tariffs/assets/pdf/adviceletter/ELEC\\_7034-E.pdf](https://www.pge.com/tariffs/assets/pdf/adviceletter/ELEC_7034-E.pdf).

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. Quinn was appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Connecticut Senate
- Currently: Nuclear Evaluator. During the past 20 years Dr. 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. 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. 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. 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=IFjU6ncAAAAJ>