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Here's how much Californians will pay to keep PG&E's Diablo Canyon nuclear plant running

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PG&E's Diablo Canyon Power Plant in San Luis Obispo County.

Michael A. Mariant/Associated Press

[Pacific Gas and Electric Co.](#) will charge the average residential customer about \$41 in 2025 to keep California's only nuclear power plant running [longer than planned](#).

In filings with state regulators Friday, PG&E detailed the costs of operating Diablo Canyon Power Plant near San Luis Obispo in 2025 — costs that include impacts on customers of other California utilities, who will start paying for the power plant's operations for the first time in its nearly 40-year life.

PG&E officials have said nuclear power is a good deal for its customers, whose costs are partly offset when Diablo Canyon power is sold on the wholesale market.

But keeping Diablo Canyon running is highly controversial. Earthquake faults surround its two aging nuclear reactors. Nuclear power opponents and ratepayer advocates question whether PG&E is underestimating Diablo Canyon's operating costs at a time when utility customers are [burdened by soaring electricity prices](#).

“One of the biggest questions of all for California is this: Is this a money loser or not?” said Matthew Freedman, a staff attorney with The Utility Reform Network, an advocacy group for ratepayers.

On Friday, PG&E estimated California utility customers will pay about \$7.6 billion to extend Diablo Canyon’s operations through 2030, and state and federal programs are kicking in an additional \$1.2 billion. Earlier estimates for customer costs ranged from \$5.2 billion to \$8.3 billion.

Diablo Canyon had been slated to shut down in 2025, in what would have been a historic end to nuclear power in California. PG&E customers have already paid about \$2 billion to cover costs associated with shutting down the plant’s two nuclear reactors.

Those plans were abruptly halted in 2022 when Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state legislature intervened, arguing that the nuclear power plant remained a crucial energy supply that doesn’t generate planet-warming gasses. They brokered a deal to keep it open through 2030 and provide power to other utilities — requiring those customers to share the costs.

It’s the first time PG&E has had to detail the power plant’s cost to customer bills. In the past, Diablo Canyon costs were lumped in with the company’s power plant portfolio.

Starting in 2025, average residential customers of Southern California Edison will pay about \$2.55 per month toward Diablo Canyon costs, and those with San Diego Gas and Electric will pay \$2. Customers served by community choice power programs, such as AVA Community Energy and Sonoma Clean Power, will also contribute.

David Weisman, legislative director for the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility, a San Luis Obispo-based nonprofit that pushed for the power plant’s closure, said California doesn’t need Diablo Canyon anymore, though it may have seemed it did in 2022 when the state’s energy system was taxed by catastrophic wildfires and heat waves. The state’s grid operator resorted to rolling blackouts on two days in August 2020 when demand outstripped supply.

California has dramatically ramped up renewable energy sources and battery storage in the years since and experienced no energy shortage, even amid extended heat waves and this summer’s [hottest July on record](#).

“Diablo Canyon is California’s really expensive old car,” Weisman said. “You can make the system redundant many times over, but at what cost?”

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