

# Christie Brinkley: Nuclear Energy Is Not Worth the Risks

**To the Editor:**

Re "Thanks to Increasing Energy Demands, Nuclear Power Gets New Push" (Business, July 5):

Your article states, "The search for clean energy has given nuclear power a spark," noting opposition to the planned shutdown of California's Diablo Canyon plant by 2025. But the devil is in the details. Nuclear power is not clean, green or emission-free like wind or solar.

Generating uranium for reactors creates enormous amounts of greenhouse gases, and reactors produce some carbon, such as carbon-14. Each day, reactors release radioactivity into the environment. Radioactive strontium-90 has been measured in the baby teeth of children near Diablo Canyon. Diablo Canyon has produced an estimated eight times the radioactivity released at Chernobyl.

The most toxic waste known to mankind is stored in deep pools of water and outdoor concrete casks at the site, as nobody wants a national repository in their backyard.

Finally, Diablo Canyon is built near fault lines, as close as 2,000 feet away. An earthquake could cause more ground motion than the reactors were designed to withstand, leading to a meltdown like Fukushima.

These risks, for a mere 9.3 percent of California's electricity, when 33.1 percent already comes from safe renewable sources, are not worth it. Whoever claims that nuclear energy is the clean, green, cheap energy answer in California when the true cost is paid with your health doesn't know what the Diablo they're talking about!

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*The writer, the model and actress, is vice president of the Radiation and Public Health Project.*