

cc: Darrell Issa



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Congressman Ken Calvert
2269 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 3, 2011

Dear Congressman Calvert:

The disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan has generated world-wide concern regarding the safety of nuclear power. As you are aware, the City of San Clemente, home to 63,522 is located entirely within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). The City Council, and our broader community have learned a great deal about nuclear power over the past several months as SONGS has become a focal point for concerns about the safety of nuclear power.

The Council takes our responsibility to represent our citizens with utmost seriousness, and have endeavored to educate ourselves and our community. We listened to residents opposed to nuclear power and those who support it. We held special council meetings to hear presentations and have questions answered by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), SONGS, and anti-nuclear power experts. As a final step in this process, October 18, 2011 the City Council formally considered multiple steps the Council could take regarding nuclear power, including supporting a resolution from a community group calling for the immediate shut-down of SONGS.

The City is fortunate to have Federal Elected Officials who are well informed and active in the Country's ongoing discussion about nuclear power. After careful and informed deliberation, on behalf of the citizens of the City of San Clemente, we request that you take four specific actions.

First, we ask that you demand the establishment of a permanent, safe, disposal site for spent nuclear fuel and the establishment of temporary sites, if necessary, to move spent fuel away from our community. The storage of spent fuel on site at SONGS was of concern to our Council when SONGS became operational and continues to be of concern today. As ratepayers, our residents have paid for off site spent fuel transportation and storage that has never been completed. Through the process described above, we have come to understand that movement and storage of spent fuel requires coordination across multiple agencies and states.

Second, we ask that you insist that a permanent off site storage solution for spent fuel be identified before relicensing is granted to SONGS. Although Southern California Edison (SCE) has not yet formally entered relicensing, our understanding is that the disposal of spent fuel is not taken into consideration as part of the relicensing process. Should SCE seek relicensing, an off-site storage solution should be identified prior to the license being granted. SONGS has one of the smallest nuclear power plant footprints in the country. The continued accumulation of spent fuel on site is a problem that must be solved at the federal level and a solution identified before continuing to generate more spent fuel.

Third, we request that you promote a federal level review of the risk/benefit analysis that the NRC uses to ensure that it adequately assesses public risk levels.

Finally, we add support for the insistence of the two Senators from California that the NRC quickly adopt the "Near-term Task Force Recommendations for Enhancing Reactor Safety in the 21st Century". We are aware that the NRC is working rapidly towards this goal, as demonstrated by the Commission's approval on October 18, 2011, of the staff's recommendations to implement the short and medium term items from the Near-Term Task Force's and the Commission's statement from its October 18, 2011, Memorandum that the "NRC should strive to complete and implement the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident within five years – by 2016." We echo the Senators' position that these recommendations carry special urgency and must be executed without delay.

At our October 18, 2011 City Council meeting, we took three additional actions that we would like you to be aware of:

- First, we have written to the NRC to insist that the NRC require utilities to move spent fuel rods to dry cask storage as soon as those rods can be safely moved. The storage of spent fuel rods onsite at SONGS continues to be of concern to the Council and is an area we believe that the NRC can take more immediate action.
- Second, we have written to the California Public Utilities Commission and California Energy Commission to request their support of the proposed SCE enhanced seismic study of the region so that it can begin as quickly as possible.
- Finally, we continue to pursue funding for the extension of La Pata as an additional evacuation route for the City of San Clemente as conveyed in my letter of May 18, 2011.

On behalf of the citizens of San Clemente and my colleagues, I respectfully request your support and continued advocacy for the above items. As representatives of the people we serve, it is our Council's duty to be informed and to act upon our knowledge. Where we cannot exercise authority, we can advocate for the public's best interest. We appreciate the attention you and your staff have brought to these issues and look forward to working with you further on them.

Sincerely,



Lori Donchak
Mayor

cc: City Councilmembers