2013 Highlights of Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility’s Year-In-Review

JANUARY
• Legislation sponsored by A4NR and authored by Senator Hannah Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) is introduced. SB 418 would require ALL costs of relicensing to be evaluated before utilities apply for funding a 20-year license renewal at nuclear power plants in California.
• SB 418 Co-sponsored by Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins and Senator Marty Block (both D-San Diego)
• Prehearing Conference for SONGS investigation at CPUC

FEBRUARY
• Attend NRC meeting on still unresolved San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station (SONGS) fiasco
• First to propose San Luis Obispo (SLO) Supervisors consider post-Diablo Canyon economic future
• Attend California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Public Participation Hearing on San Onofre in Costa Mesa
• Attend Diablo Independent Peer Review Panel seismic presentation at CPUC in San Francisco
• Rochelle Becker and John Geesman attend State Water Board review of once-through-cooling

MARCH
• Alliance representatives thrown out of Senior Seismic Hazard Analysis Committee (SSHAC) workshop in Oakland by nuclear utilities—in spite of NRC rules that allow them to be observers!

APRIL
• Becker and Geesman attend State Water Board review of once-through-cooling

MAY
• Hearings and Cross-examination in SONGS steam generator investigation at CPUC

JUNE
• SONGS reactors officially retired on June 7th!
• Attend CPUC-California Energy Commission (CEC) joint hearing at UCLA on post-SONGS problems
• Geesman presents seismic issues at CEC workshop on nuclear power

JULY
• CPUC hearings continue in San Francisco
• After 6 months of intense work with the staff for Senator Jackson on SB 418, the bill is heard before committee, but due to heavy lobbying by PG&E and certain labor groups, it does not receive enough votes to pass.
• David Weisman and Rochelle Becker address Senator Padilla’s energy committee on a hearing devoted to the aftermath of SONGS and the future of nuclear power in California.
  (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61s1yuVPNNU)
AUGUST
• Hearings for PG&E’s General Rate Case at CPUC
• Becker and Geesman attend State Water Board review of once-through-cooling
• Form alliance with Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) for investigation of Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC) lax seismic oversight of PG&E at Diablo Canyon

SEPTEMBER
• Becker visits California congressional representatives in Washington DC. Suffers a fall and fractures ankle; Meets with Mothers for Peace attorney Diane Curran who wraps ankle in ice 😊
• Weisman attends NRC meetings on SONGS decommissioning; appears on local radio and TV
• Geesman delivers presentation on history of SONGS fiasco at invitation of Western Interstate Energy Board meeting in San Diego

OCTOBER
• Becker attends NRC waste confidence meeting in Carlsbad in wheelchair
• Geesman and Weisman attend Diablo Canyon Independent Safety Meeting in SLO
• San Luis Obispo County Supervisors hold post-Diablo economic workshop; Weisman attends (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6zat7ldRcl)
• Weisman, Geesman and seismic consultant, Dr. Douglas Hamilton, attend SSHAC Ground Motion conference in Berkeley, for presentations on post-Fukushima seismic studies at Diablo Canyon
• A4NR files comments in CEC Independent Energy Policy Review (IEPR)

NOVEMBER
• A4NR travels to Washington, DC, Weisman and Geesman assist Becker’s movement in her “walker” 😊
• Geesman, Weisman and Becker meet with NRC Chairman Macfarlane and later staff for Senator Markey and Senator Boxer’s Environment and Public Works Committee and eight congressional representatives and gave each an advanced copy of the Union of Concerned Scientist’s report “Seismic Shift” (http://a4nr.org/?p=2998)
• Meet with Dave Freeman and Friends of the Earth (FOE) nuclear staff regarding strategies for pending once-through-cooling requirements and alternatives at Diablo Canyon
• Dinner with Mothers for Peace Attorney, Diane Curran, for stimulating conversation and tasty treats 😊
• November 15th - one week after our visit, Senator Boxer calls attention to Diablo seismic concerns and challenges at an oversight hearing of the NRC (http://youtu.be/wtpynQlBBP4)
• The semi-final State Water Board meeting before announcing the alternatives to the current devastating cooling practices at aging reactors took an unexpected turn after the consultant released its draft report. The $8 billion dollar cost is more than the $5.7 billion it cost to build the reactors and, the potential 11-year construction timeframe extends beyond the current licenses, which expire in 2024/2025!
• The once-through-cooling review will now extend into 2014
• A4NR’s position has been consistent and supported with documentation: When it comes to once-through-cooling at Diablo Canyon the practice must end. No mitigation…no license renewal. Period.

DECEMBER
• Chairman Macfarlane distributes UCS “Seismic Shift” broadly throughout the NRC
• Weisman works with congressional staff on follow-up letters regarding NRC regulatory failures
• Geesman files multiple legal briefs in various open Southern California Edison (SCE) and PG&E cases at the CPUC
• Geesman, Weisman and Becker are meeting with CPUC Commissioners Florio and Peterman and staff for Commissioners Peevey and Sandoval regarding SONGS on December 12th.