



## CITY OF SOLANA BEACH

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May 1, 2012

The Honorable Gregory Jaczko  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop O-16G4  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

There has been increased interest and focus in the Southern California region on the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station since the tragic March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan's coastline and the resulting destruction of the Fukushima-Dalichi Nuclear Generating Station and radiation release.

The City of Solana Beach, a coastal community located in San Diego County, is located approximately 30 miles from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS).

While the nuclear power generating industry has generally provided electricity safely and reliably, we know that an incident at a nuclear power generating facility can have devastating and generational consequences, as witnessed in Chernobyl and most recently in Japan. There are approximately 7.4 million people living within a 50-mile radius of SONGS. A catastrophic operational incident there, whether caused by natural events such as an earthquake or an event caused by equipment malfunction or human error, would render this densely populated area located in Southern California a virtual wasteland.

There have been several operational safety issues over the past years at SONGS. The most recent issue occurred this past January. As we are sure you are aware, on January 31<sup>st</sup> of this year it was discovered that the Unit 3 nuclear generating reactor steam generator tubes, which had been installed in the last two years, experienced significant premature wear and developed small leaks. Southern California Edison, the operator of SONGS, shut down the electrical power-generating unit as soon as the leaks and release of radiation were detected. Very recently it was discovered that the steam generator tubes in Unit 2, which had been shut down for maintenance, have also experienced premature wear. These nuclear reactor power generating reactor units remain out of service until the cause is determined for the premature wear and a solution is developed and approved to repair the steam generators tubes.

One of the primary responsibilities of local government is the public safety and the welfare of its citizens. The City Council of Solana Beach takes this responsibility very seriously. With the recent events that occurred in Japan and the recent troubling events that have occurred at SONGS, the City Council believes that it's important that not only are these steam generators repaired once the cause is determined and addressed, but that it is imperative based on the tragic incidents that have occurred

at the Fukushima-Dalichi Nuclear Generating Station that a more comprehensive study of SONGS and its operations be conducted before either unit is brought back online. The consequences of a disaster at the facility are far too great not to take this time to assure that all reasonable safety precautions have been taken.

As the local elected representatives for the citizens of the City of Solana Beach, we, the City Council of Solana Beach, respectfully request that you, as the chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and the Commission as a body:

- Support Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein's efforts to advocate that the NRC modify its relicensing policies to ensure a full re-examination of the basics of the design elements including seismic and tsunami hazards, operational issues, plant security, and emergency preparedness.
- Support Senators Boxer and Feinstein's call for the NRC to implement the short-term recommendations of the NRC 90 Day Taskforce Report as soon as possible and that it develop a feasible more immediate plan for implementing their longer term recommendations, including expanding the evacuation zone from a 10-mile radius to a 50-mile radius as recommended in "The Lessons From Fukushima".

Public safety is government's most important responsibility; therefore, it is essential that the NRC thoroughly and expeditiously evaluate the known threats and potential risks in regards to the continuance of operations at SONGS. It is vitally important that the NRC ensures that SONGS and the infrastructure that support the facility and its operations are adequately constructed and maintained and that the personnel who work at the facility, are trained and prepared to prevent accidents from happening whether they're caused by natural or manmade events, or an intentional act such as terrorism. In addition, it is critical that the NRC assures that emergency plans are sufficient to ensure the protection and safety of the 7.4 million residents living within a 50-mile radius of the facility if the unthinkable were to happen.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this very important matter.

Respectfully,



Joe G Kellejian  
Mayor



David W Roberts  
Deputy Mayor



Mike Nichols  
Council Member



Thomas M Campbell  
Council Member



Lesa Heebner  
Council Member

cc: Kristine L Svinicki, Commissioner  
George Apostolakis, Commissioner  
William D Magwood, IV, Commissioner  
William C Ostendorff, Commissioner