

August 23, 2017

Dear Senator Kamala Harris:

Southern California Edison is currently storing 1632 tons of highly radioactive nuclear waste in an unsafe condition at the San Onofre Nuclear Plant near the beach. We need your help before major radioactive leaks cause us to evacuate major regions of California.

- **Edison must be required to use only transportable dry storage containers that can be inspected (inside and out), maintained, repaired and monitored to PREVENT leaks. We expect as much in a car. Instead, they are doing the opposite and have no approved plan to deal with leaking canisters.**

Edison plans to load 73 more thin-wall canisters and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is allowing this. Each canister contains about as much highly radioactive Cesium-137 as was released from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Other countries use thick-wall casks (10" to 19 ¾" thick) that meet the above critical safety requirements and are transportable. Edison uses thin-wall steel canisters (only 5/8" thick) that may have already started to crack and cannot be transported with even partial cracks. Since they cannot inspect for cracks, we don't know when they will leak or if they are transportable.

The NRC has data showing canisters may last only 20 years. The Koeberg nuclear plant had a comparable container (a tank) leak in only 17 years. Some of the San Onofre canisters are already 14 years old. Loading started in 2003. The NRC states a Diablo Canyon two-year old canister has all the conditions for cracking.

- **Edison's permit to use more thin-wall canisters must be revoked by the NRC and California Coastal Commission and a safer location must be found.**

Edison has not only chosen inferior containers, but want to use limited Decommissioning Funds to unsafely store them by the beach in one of the most highly populated regions of the country, in a major earthquake zone, vulnerable to coastal corrosion, and in a major international transportation corridor.

- **H.R. 3053 "The Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017" and similar interim nuclear waste storage bills do not solve the above urgent problems and will increase our risks for major radioactive leaks. H.R. 3053 will**
  - Remove federal, state and local clean water and air rights and other rights.
  - Remove oversight, input and transparency of waste storage facilities.
  - Remove nuclear safety storage and transport requirements needed to prevent leaks.
  - Remove utilities' liability by transferring licenses to the federal government without addressing critical dry storage and transport safety issues and costs.

Please advocate for safer storage and transport before major radiological leaks force us to permanently evacuate major regions of California.

Nuclear fuel waste must be stored in transportable storage casks that can be inspected, monitored, maintained and repaired to PREVENT leaks. There must be a plan in place to deal with problem containers and problem fuel and a plan to transport this waste to safer locations. Other countries do this. Help us do this.

Do not support H.R. 3053 and similar bills that reduce our safety.

Respectfully,

Southern California Communities