Request to add agenda item re: Public Safety Issues at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

As a concerned citizens group we respectfully request that you consider allowing us to make a ten minute special presentation regarding public safety issues at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. We ask to be put on your agenda as soon as possible. This matter of public safety has taken on even greater urgency especially for those of us within the reach of a radiation plume extending 50 miles and beyond. With the on-going disaster in Fukushima, which took place a little more than a year ago, we have grown in numbers and regional reach, including people within your own community. We are all in this together, regardless of city boundaries.

As you may already know, there was a recent event where radiation was released into the environment from a ruptured tube in one of the recently installed critical steam generators. All four steam generators are showing signs of unprecedented wear. This has resulted in the current unplanned closure of both nuclear reactors (Units 2 and 3) since January 2012.

Edison is losing about a million dollars a day while the plant is down, so they are highly motivated to restart the plant as soon as possible. We have reason to believe that the plant may be restarted prematurely and would like to share information we have that explains why we are concerned. Edison has implied there may be rolling blackouts if San Onofre is shut down through the summer. However, we have reports from the California Independent Systems Operator (CAISO) that confirms there is a safe margin of surplus electricity for the summer. If the steam generators fail again, huge amounts of radiation could be released into the atmosphere, permanently impacting our communities and our families. We, the public, simply can’t allow this critical decision to be made without ample opportunity to review this approval process.

So far, all of the other cities with whom we have shared our “Awareness Campaign” have supported our call for tighter enforcement by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to prevent the public from being exposed to hazardous levels of radiation. San Clemente, Laguna Beach, Solana Beach and Irvine, have each written strongly worded letters to those who may help make a difference in this dangerous situation. A copy of one such letter from the City of Irvine is included as part of this package. Several other cities are currently taking this matter into consideration. It is our hope, that after hearing our well documented concerns, you will join the other cities and compose a similar letter on behalf of the many people you represent.

There is a justifiable sense of urgency to allow concerned communities to be heard. I have attached a few additional documents which are particularly significant. These and many other referenced resources can be found on our website, SanOnofreSafety.org. A reply to our request to be on your agenda as soon as possible would be much appreciated.

Thank you,

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San Clemente Green
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