August 21, 2012

Dr. Allison M. Macfarlane
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Macfarlane:

On behalf of the Santa Monica City Council and the city's residents I am writing to express concerns regarding the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) and to urge action on the part of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in order to safeguard public health in the region.

Santa Monica is a coastal community located in Los Angeles County approximately 80 miles northwest of SONGS. Since the tragic earthquake and tsunami that struck the coast of Japan in March 2011 and destroyed the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear plant, attention in Southern California has focused on concerns about the safety of SONGS.

While the nuclear energy industry has generally provided electricity safely and reliably, accidents at nuclear generating stations can have widespread and devastating consequences, as witnessed at Chernobyl and last year in Japan. There have been several operational safety issues over the years at SONGS, most recently on January 31, 2012 with the release of radioactive vapor due to a leak in a steam generator tube. Following that incident your agency determined that premature operational wear in the steam generator tubes in SONGS units 2 and 3, which had been installed within the past two years, present a significant a safety risk and both units have been shut down.

In light of the potential catastrophic consequences to human life and the environment from an accident at SONGS the City of Santa Monica urges the NRC to go beyond its current focus of resolving the safety issue with the worn steam generator tubes and instead conduct a comprehensive study of SONGS that includes a public and transparent licensing amendment process before either unit is brought back online. The consequences of an accident at SONGS are far too great not to take this time to ensure that the facility does not present a danger to the residents of Southern California. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

Richard Bloom
Mayor

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Mayor