PRESS RELEASE AND MEDIA ADVISORY

PUBLIC to CPUC: Not One More Dime for Edison’s Mistakes!

CA Utility Regulator to Open Investigation into San Onofre Outage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EVENT DETAILS:

Event: CPUC Meeting
Date/Time: Thursday, October 25, 2012, 9am.
Location: Irvine City Council Chambers, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine CA 92606
Note: The San Onofre issue is Item #34 but may be moved up in the agenda. Public comment starts at 9am and is not allowed prior to each agenda item.

Event: Press Conference by Coalition to Keep San Onofre Shut
Date/Time: Thursday, October 25, 2012, 11:30am. (est).
Note: The press conference may be delayed slightly if the CPUC is still processing the San Onofre item of business.
Location: Irvine City Hall, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, CA 92606, outside the City Council Chambers

Oct 23, 2012 (IRVINE, CA) – A coalition of community advocacy groups opposed to the restart of the defective San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant will attend a rare meeting of the full California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in Irvine this Thursday to demand that customers not pay for SoCal Edison’s mistakes.

The CPUC's published Agenda for this meeting includes opening an Investigation into issues raised by the extended outage of San Onofre Nuclear Plant Units 2 and 3 (Item #34). The CPUC’s Draft "Order Instituting Investigation (OII) can be viewed here: http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M030/K511/30511880.pdf

The coalition’s message to the CPUC: It’s time to cut our losses and permanently shut down the defective San Onofre nuclear reactors.

1. Edison’s plan to restart (even at partial power) defective and damaged equipment is unacceptable. This is not a prudent or reasonable plan for ensuring cost effective and reliable power.

2. Forcing customers to pay potentially billions of dollars for Edison’s aging and crippled nuclear reactors is unacceptable. Edison and SDG&E customers already have some of the highest electricity rates in California and the nation.

3. The CPUC investigation should analyze costs and reliability through the current license period. This will show that Edison’s mismanaged, defective and aging nuclear reactors are a bad investment for California ratepayers.
Near-term replacements for San Onofre power should emphasize reducing demand, and strengthening energy efficiency and renewable options. This would address potential economic and environmental impacts from the San Onofre outage.

OII proceedings regarding San Onofre should be conducted in Southern California, to allow residents from the area most impacted by the decisions of these proceedings to more easily attend, particularly the pre-hearing conference.

The coalition will rally and sponsor a press conference in opposition to the continued operation of the San Onofre nuclear plant at 11:30 am, October 25 outside the CPUC Meeting.

Edison’s longtime mismanagement of the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant was demonstrated just this week by news of a hydrogen gas leak from Unit 2 resulting from steam generator pressure tests in preparation for a re-start Edison has proposed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The hydrogen leak is reminiscent of the build-up of hydrogen gas which occurred at Three Mile Island in the U.S. in 1979, and resulted in three explosions at the stricken Fukushima Daichi nuclear power plant last year.

"It is troubling to learn that the plant can have a serious problem with a hydrogen leak, even when it is shut down," said Gary Headrick of San Clemente Green.

The CPUC regulates the rates and reliability of electric service by SoCal Edison & SDG&E, majority and minority owners of the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant -- NOT nuclear power plant safety, which is the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The CPUC rarely conducts its "Voting Meetings" outside of its San Francisco headquarters. The "Voting Meeting" on Thursday, October 25th in the Irvine City Council Chambers is a rare opportunity for those affected by the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant to address all five Commissioners, who are appointed by the Governor.

The CPUC does limit public input, however, by disallowing any public comment at the meeting except at the initial public comment period and also by rule that any member of the public can only make one comment on any issue. Thus, many members of the activist community will be speaking at the press conference at 11:30 a.m.

The draft Order Instituting Investigation estimates that the CPUC will complete the process and make a final ruling in about 18 months after the Prehearing Conference and scoping meeting, which is slated to occur early in 2013.

CONTACTS:
Citizens’ Oversight Committee: Ray Lutz / RayLutz@CitizensOversight.org / 619-820-5321
Peace Resource Center of San Diego: Carol Jahnkow / caroljahnkow@gmail.com / 760-390-0775
Residents Organizing for a Safe Environment (ROSE): Gene Stone / genston@sbcglobal.net / 949-233-7724
San Clemente Green: Gary Headrick / gary@sanclementegreen.org / 949-218-4051

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