San Clemente Green Statement for NRC meeting on 10-9-12

My name is Gary Headrick, co-founder of San Clemente Green representing over 1700 concerned citizens. We are not here to test our wits against the pro-nuke panelists that were selected by the NRC. We are here to demand that this serious question about restarting a damaged nuclear reactor be answered by the most qualified experts available. There is really only one topic that needs to be discussed today and that is the need for a LICENSE AMENDMENT and EVIDENTIARY HEARING.

It is unfortunate that it was necessary for Friends of the Earth and Natural Resources Defense Council to file a petition before the NRC simply to ask that the Commission enforce their own regulations. Why does it take this kind of pressure to make the NRC call for a proper investigation when their single purpose is public safety? Repeating the mantra of “safety first” over and over again does not make it so. In sharp contrast, Edison and NRC staff have urged that this legal petition be denied. **We need a process that really does put public safety first, and the only way we will get it is with a LICENSE AMENDMENT and EVIDENTIARY HEARING.**

The public deserves to have an opportunity for their concerns to be examined by nuclear scientists and engineers who will give sworn testimony challenged by cross examination in a legally binding investigation before an impartial panel. **We want to be perfectly clear that this meeting today is no substitute for the scientific and legitimate process that the NRC and Edison, for some unexplainable reason, are seeking to avoid.**

The NRC and Edison failed to catch a miscalculation which created 400% more turbulence than the system was designed to handle. Now they propose to roll the dice at our expense again, telling us that running the system at 70% capacity will solve this built-in design problem without having to make any costly repairs. We are the people who face dire consequences if Edison restarts Unit 2 and gets it wrong again. It is completely unacceptable to allow the NRC and Edison to make this critical decision when our lives and livelihoods are on the line. This is why we insist on a LICENSE AMENDMENT and EVIDENTIARY HEARING.

Independent nuclear experts tell us that reducing power to 70% can actually create unintended consequences which are not present when running at full capacity. We are told that thousands of thin tubes have had excessive wear due to extreme vibrations and are now more likely to burst in a cascading effect that could lead to a meltdown and a radiation plume that covers more than 50 miles. These possibilities need to be fully explored by someone other than those who are responsible for designing and approving this flawed system.

We may not be nuclear experts, but we are not stupid either. The general public is wising up to the fact that we can’t simply trust “the regulators”. They let us down in disasters like Katrina, the BP Oil Spill, Wall Street and Fukushima. Each time they ignored the many warning signs and plunged headlong into disasters. We can’t afford to let that happen again, making a nuclear wasteland of Southern California. This decision is far too critical to be left to those same entities that got it wrong in the first place. We must insist upon a LICENSE AMENDMENT and EVIDENTIARY HEARING.
Let’s not overlook the fact that we’ve managed to avoid blackouts without any nuclear power from San Onofre since January 31. Why should we be expected to take such a huge risk when we don’t even need the energy? What’s the rush Edison? How do our lives fit into your risk assessments? Don’t experiment with our families homes and communities. Our safety is much more important than your profits.

NRC – We are counting on you to simply do your job. Immediately call for a LICENSE AMENDMENT and EVIDENTIARY HEARING. Restore our faith in you. Don’t let them roll the dice.