

**From:** [Howell, Linda](#)  
**To:** [Browder, Rachel](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Response to Your E-Mail Dated August 24, 2018  
**Date:** Friday, September 14, 2018 1:50:19 PM

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**From:** Howell, Linda  
**Sent:** Friday, September 14, 2018 1:31 PM  
**To:** 'jeffsteinmetz@yahoo.com' <jeffsteinmetz@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** Response to Your E-Mail Dated August 24, 2018

Mr. Steinmetz,

Thank you for your email dated August 24, 2018, regarding the August 3, 2018, fuel handling event at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS or licensee). We are currently unable to respond to your questions and concerns, since we are actively exploring areas related to those questions during the NRC's special inspection at SONGS, which began on September 10. We are taking the August 3 event seriously, which is why we initiated a special inspection. The NRC team will evaluate the licensee's event causal analysis and the adequacy of their corrective actions. Many, if not all, of your questions will likely be answered in an inspection report documenting the team's findings that will be publicly available within 45 days of the end of the inspection.

In response to some of your other questions, we wanted to inform you that the Holtec canister's basket shim issue is also subject of an on-going NRC inspection. The conclusions regarding this issue will be documented in a future NRC inspection report. In response to your question concerning unloading a canister, the NRC ensures that the requirements under 10 CFR 72.122(I) are met, so that a licensee is able to safely remove, with no operational safety problems, the spent fuel from storage for further processing or disposal. In addition, each general 10 CFR Part 72 licensee (such as SONGS) is required to follow the provisions of the Dry Cask Storage System's Certificate of Compliance, the licensee's Appendix A and B Technical Specifications, and the applicable Final Safety Analysis Report. The Holtec HI-STORM UMAX Certificate of Compliance 72-1040 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16341B061), which SONGS employs, Condition #8 requires the general licensee (SONGS) to perform "dry run" demonstrations, prior to use, which includes unloading operations associated with a canister. SONGS satisfactorily completed these dry run demonstrations. Descriptions of fuel retrievability are also described in the Holtec HI-STORM UMAX Final Safety Analysis Report (ADAMS Accession No. ML17229B200) Section I.4.5.5, "Fuel Retrievability."

Sincerely,  
Linda Howell, Deputy Director  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety  
NRC Region IV