

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 18, 2019

The Honorable Kristine Svinicki
Chairwoman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Svinicki

We write today regarding the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) investigation of the apparent violations that took place in March and August 2018, at the San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station (SONGS). As you know well, the Commission plays a critical oversight role for the decommissioning and spent fuel transfer process at SONGS, and we want to ensure the greatest level of safety at the site.

In March 2018, workers at SONGS discovered a broken, stainless steel shim pin at the bottom of a Holtec canister that was to be loaded with spent fuel assemblies. Four canisters of the same design had already been loaded with fuel prior to this discovery. NRC inspectors assessed Holtec's actions, as well as the canister designs that led to the incident, and identified two apparent violations related to Holtec's canister redesign process. In response, Holtec requested a pre-decisional enforcement conference, which was held on January 9, 2019. It is our understanding that the NRC will come to a final conclusion on Holtec's violations within 60 days of the conference.

The NRC identified two further apparent violations at SONGS in relation to the August 2018 incident, during which a canister being lowered into an underground storage vault was nearly dropped. This near-miss event was caused by a lack of "redundant drop protection features" and inadequate training and procedures for canister loading processes.¹ At the request of Southern California Edison, the NRC has scheduled a January 24th pre-decisional enforcement conference to explore the apparent violations.

These apparent violations at SONGS are extremely concerning. Given the high population density near the site, a canister breach has the potential to be disastrous.

As a result, we request that you take the following actions:

- Relocate the upcoming January 24th pre-decisional enforcement conference to a venue in the vicinity of SONGS, so that local communities have direct access to the proceedings.

¹ Pruett, Troy W. "NRC SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT 050-00206/2018-005, 050-00361/2018-005, 050-00362/2018-005, 072 -00041/2018-001 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION." Received by Doug Bauder, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, 28 Nov. 2018, San Clemente, CA.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML18332A357>

- Adopt appropriate enforcement actions that ensure involved parties change the processes that led to these incidents, as well as any processes that could lead to future safety violations.

The safety of our constituents depends on your close attentions to these issues. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



MIKE LEVIN
Member of Congress



JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress



HARLEY ROUDA
Member of Congress



SCOTT PETERS
Member of Congress

CHAIRMAN Resource

From: Gilbert, Jonathan <Jonathan.Gilbert@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 4:59 PM
To: CHAIRMAN Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] Member Letter re San Onofre
Attachments: 2019-01-18 Letter to NRC re SONGS Conference and Apparent Violations.pdf

Please see the attached letter from Reps. Mike Levin, Harley Rouda, Juan Vargas, and Scott Peters regarding the upcoming pre-enforcement conference on apparent violations at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. A copy of this letter has also been shared with NRC Congressional Affairs.

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