



ALLIANCE FOR NUCLEAR RESPONSIBILITY

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April 21, 2022

Ms. Jennifer Lucchese, Executive Officer  
California State Lands Commission  
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South  
Sacramento, CA 95825

**TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL**

Re: Item #44, Consent Calendar, for the April 26, 2022 meeting  
General Lease – Right-of-Way Use for SONGS Unit 1 Conduits

Dear Ms. Lucchese:

The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility (“A4NR”) urges the Commission, acting in its capacity as trustee of California’s sovereign lands, to strengthen the proposed lease to require the most stringent remediation requirements previously approved by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“NRC”) for other decommissioned nuclear power plants.

Californians deserve the same level of radiological protection as residents of Massachusetts, Maine, New York, and Vermont – and the same level already achieved in California at the decommissioned Humboldt Bay Nuclear Power Plant. The language recommended for inclusion is: **“Radiological cleanup shall achieve the lowest dose-based levels, measured by millirems per year, previously approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a License Termination Plan for a commercial nuclear power plant in the United States.”**

This language will ensure that, upon lease termination, the SONGS Unit 1 conduits will be subject to the most stringent requirements approved by the NRC, rather than the general 25-millirems per year standard the NRC applies when no tougher requirement has been included in a License Termination Plan. The NRC approved License Termination Plans with a state-required 10-millirems per year standard for plants in Massachusetts and Maine, both of which have subsequently completed decommissioning. Decommissioning is underway at plants in New York and Vermont with, at the insistence of state governments, the same 10-millirems per year restriction to be included in the License Termination Plans submitted to the NRC.

10-millirems per year is an achievable standard: at the recently completed decommissioning of California's Humboldt Bay Nuclear Power Plant, the NRC determined that PG&E actually accomplished a cleanup level of 6-millirems per year. Visitors to the San Onofre State Beach are entitled to the same diligence.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Becker  
Executive Director

cc: California State Lands Commission Members



Ms. Jennifer Lucchesi, Executive Officer  
California State Lands Commission  
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Sent VIA EMAIL: Jennifer.Lucchesi@slc.ca.gov  
cslc.commissionmeetings@slc.ca.gov

April 25, 2022

Re: Item #44, Consent Calendar, for the April 26, 2022 meeting  
General Lease – Right-of-Way Use for SONGS Unit 1 Conduits

Dear Ms. Lucchesi and Commission Members,

The Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club requests that the State Lands Commission take this opportunity to strengthen language and policy statewide regarding acceptable millirems levels post de-commissioning. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has previously approved a 10-millirems- per-year standard for decommissioned nuclear power plants in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont. This standard of radiological protection is achievable and the decommissioned Humboldt Bay Nuclear Power Plant (operated by Pacific Gas and Electric) has already achieved the 10-millirems standard.

Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is now in the process of initiating the decommissioning process. It is in the interest of our community and all residents of the state that the policy of the State Lands Commission is to require the most stringent remediation levels of 10-millirems-per-year. We request that you apply the following language for nuclear power plants in California: ***"Radiological cleanup shall achieve the lowest dose-based levels, measured by millirems per year, previously approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a License Termination Plan for a commercial nuclear power plant in the United States."***

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SAH", followed by a horizontal line.

Susan Harvey, Chair  
Conservation Committee  
Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club

Cc: Carole Mintzer Ex Com Chair, Andrew Christie Chapter Director

Monday, April 25, 2022

Ms. Jennifer Lucchese,  
Executive Officer  
California State Lands Commission  
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Item #44, Consent Calendar, for the April 26, 2022 meeting  
General Lease – Right-of-Way Use for SONGS Unit 1 Conduits

Dear Ms. Lucchese:

Public Watchdogs invites the California State Lands Commission to strengthen the allowable radiation limits for the proposed lease at the failed San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS).

Currently, the SONGS project will comply with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) 25-millirem per year maximum radiation standard. It should be noted that this 25-millirem per year standard is an NRC default standard, and that State Governments can lawfully request the licensee (Southern California Edison) to comply with a lower 10-millirem per year maximum radiation standard, as specified by the NRC.

The California State Lands Commission is well within its legal rights to request the lower, safer, 10-millirem standard in its agreement with Southern California Edison.

According to the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, (OSHA) there is no such thing as a “safe level” of radiation. According to OSHA “... no level of radiation dose is considered to be completely ‘safe’...” and “why doses should always be kept as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA).”<sup>1</sup>

As the Alliance For Nuclear Responsibility has observed in its April 21, 2022, letter, the NRC approved License Termination Plans with a state-required 10-millirems per year are standard for plants in Massachusetts and Maine. What’s more California’s Humboldt Bay Nuclear Power Plant achieved only 6-millirems during its decommissioning. There is no reason why SONGS should be allowed 2.5 times the radiation levels as Massachusetts and Maine.

Sincerely,



Charles Langley  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> See OSHA web site at <https://www.osha.gov/ionizing-radiation/health-effects> at <https://bit.ly/3MxSJTV>