

July 10, 2002

Ms. Patricia Borchmann  
176 Walker Way  
Vista, CA 92083

Dear Ms. Borchmann:

I am responding to your e-mail dated May 31, 2002, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Office of Public Affairs. In your e-mail, you stated that you want all forms of government (i.e., Federal, State and local) to shut down San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3, and Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Units 1 and 2, to stop the generation of nuclear waste. You further stated that neither dry cask storage nor the proposed permanent disposal site at Yucca Mountain will solve the nuclear waste issue.

Regarding your request for all forms of government to shut down these plants, as directed by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, the NRC is solely responsible for regulating nuclear power plants. Therefore, any decisions to shut down a nuclear power plant are made at the Federal government level.

With regard to your statement on dry cask storage, the NRC has determined that, if necessary, spent fuel generated in any reactor can be stored safely for at least 30 years beyond the licensed life of a reactor in its spent fuel pool or at either onsite or offsite independent fuel-storage installations (the independent fuel-storage installations are normally dry cask storage systems). Dry storage involves the placing of spent nuclear fuel inside airtight steel (or in steel and concrete) containers or casks that provide both structural strength and radiation shielding. Dry storage casks are currently stored above ground. All dry casks are passive designs in that they involve no mechanical devices for cooling or ventilation. Dry cask designs must be tested to verify they can safely withstand a variety of circumstances, such as floods, projectiles from tornados, temperature extremes and lightning strikes. In our May 23, 2002, response to your letter dated March 28, 2002, we provided you with information on our regulations which control the installation and use of dry cask storage.

Regarding your statement on Yucca Mountain, the U.S. Congress recently passed resolutions designating Yucca Mountain as the nation's high-level waste repository site. The Department of Energy is now responsible for submitting a license request to the NRC to permanently store nuclear fuel at the Yucca Mountain site. No fuel will be permanently stored at the Yucca Mountain site unless the NRC determines the public will be adequately protected during the use of this facility. If the NRC finds it cannot grant a license for this facility, the fuel can remain safely stored in dry cask storage systems until another disposal option is found.

Ms. Patricia Borchmann

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In conclusion, we continue to believe the public can be adequately protected from spent nuclear fuel. If you have questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Brian Benney at 301-415-3764.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Stephen Dembek, Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate IV  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

In conclusion, we continue to believe the public can be adequately protected from spent nuclear fuel. If you have questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Brian Benney at 301-415-3764.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Stephen Dembek, Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate IV  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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**NRR-106**

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**From:** <Pdbsongs1@cs.com>  
**To:** <president@whitehouse.gov>, <opa@nrc.gov>  
**Date:** 5/31/02 1:23PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Citizens' Demand to Immediately SHUT DOWN nuclear plants in CALIF

President George W. Bush,  
OPA at Nuclear Regulatory Commission -

I am forwarding my prior email to Governor Gray Davis FYI. It is also directed to you, since action by all levels of government (federal, state, and local) is sought, to immediately cause SHUT DOWN of commercial nuclear power reactors at San Onofre and Diablo Canyon, and to STOP generating more lethal waste, that Yucca Mountain won't resolve or fix, that dry cask storage of HLRW spent fuel won't resolve or fix.

Action/response at federal level is also imperative to validate NRC assurances that "public health, safety and welfare WILL be properly maintained".

A responsive reply at your earliest opportunity is requested. ACTION is imperative (sooner not later; proactive, not reactive).

Patricia Borchmann  
176 Walker Way  
Vista, CA 92083

phone/fax (760) 941-9625  
email - pdbsongs1@cs.com

**From:** <Pdbsongs1@cs.com>  
**To:** <graydavis@governor.ca.gov>  
**Date:** 5/31/02 1:00PM  
**Subject:** Citizens' Demand to Immediately SHUT DOWN nuclear plants in CALIF

Governor Gray Davis,

Please accept this as a Citizen's Demand to IMMEDIATELY shut down commercial nuclear power reactors at San Onofre and Diablo Canyon, and military complexes, so they STOP generating more waste. Yucca Mountain won't solve it. Dry cask storage won't solve it.

As a citizen in highly populated southern California, whose safety, (and the public safety of hundreds of thousands of citizens in California, the western United States, and across the Mexico border) is jeopardized, I DEMAND that the federal, state and local government take any and every action, to cause the immediate shut down of nuclear plants in California at San Onofre and at Diablo Canyon, and STOP generating more waste.

Patricia Borchmann

176 Walker Way  
Vista, CA 92083

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