

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 06/20/12

EDO CONTROL: G20120376
DOC DT: 05/17/12
FINAL REPLY:

Senator Dianne Feinstein

TO:

Chairman Jaczko

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 12-0222

Chairman Jaczko

DESC:

Restart of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
(SONGS) (EDATS: SECY-2012-0280)

ROUTING:

Borchardt
Weber
Johnson
Ash
Mamish
OGC/GC
Leeds, NRR
Collins, RIV
Zobler, OGC
Schmidt, OCA

DATE: 06/04/12

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

EDO

Rihm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO
Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NRR and Region
IV to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if
required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response with
OGC and OCA.

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System



EDATS Number: SECY-2012-0280

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: OEDO

OEDO Due Date: 6/20/2012 11:00 PM

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: 6/22/2012 11:00 PM

Subject: Restart of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS)

Description:

CC Routing: NRR; RegionIV; OGC; OCA

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20120376, LTR-12-0222

Staff Initiated: NO

Related Task:

Recurring Item: NO

File Routing: EDATS

Agency Lesson Learned: NO

OEDO Monthly Report Item: NO

Process Information

Action Type: Letter

Priority: Medium

Signature Level: Chairman Jaczko

Sensitivity: None

Urgency: NO

Approval Level: No Approval Required

OEDO Concurrence: YES

OCM Concurrence: NO

OCA Concurrence: NO

Special Instructions: Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NRR and Region IV to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

Document Information

Originator Name: Senator Dianne Feinstein

Date of Incoming: 5/17/2012

Originating Organization: Congress

Document Received by SECY Date: 6/1/2012

Addressee: Chairman Jaczko

Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE

Incoming Task Received: Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jun 01, 2012 11:03

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-12-0222 LOGGING DATE: 05/18/2012

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: SEN Dianne Feinstein

AFFILIATION: CONG

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Gregory Jaczko

SUBJECT: Request explanation of how the NRC will decide whether the San Onofre nuclear generating station will re-start

ACTION: Signature of Chairman

DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 05/17/2012

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING: Commission Correspondence

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 06/22/2012

DATE SIGNED:

EDO --G20120376



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

May 17, 2012

The Honorable Gregory Jaczko
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

I am writing to request a clear explanation of how the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will decide whether the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) is safe to re-start.

Your March 27, 2012, Confirmatory Action Letter requires Southern California Edison to take certain actions before SONGS can re-start. These actions include determining the cause of the tube leak, taking action to prevent future leaks, plugging damaged tubes, and plugging other tubes as a precautionary measure.

I recently read reports issued by Fairewinds Associates and was concerned to learn that plugging some steam generator tubes without making other repairs might not address what appears to be an underlying vibration problem. I also noted Fairewinds' assertion that faulty computer codes might have been used to analyze the new SONGS steam generators when they were designed.

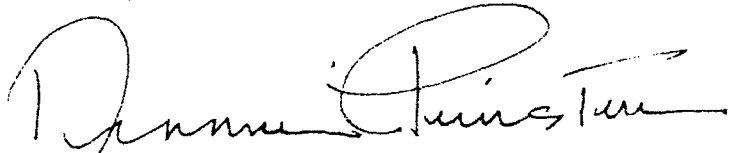
I encourage you to employ a variety of inspection techniques and consider multiple sources of data to determine whether the SONGS reactors can be re-started. In order to better understand how you will make that important safety decision, I would appreciate it if you could answer the following questions.

- How will NRC decide whether SONGS is safe to re-start? Please include a description of the specific inspections, testing, and technical reviews that will inform your decision.

- Will you rely primarily on computer simulations to decide whether SONGS will be allowed to re-start? If so, please justify why you believe the computer codes would use valid assumptions and properly account for the unique design features of the SONGS steam generators, in light of the apparent inaccuracy of codes used to date.
- How will you determine whether tube plugging or making other repairs would ensure that SONGS can be operated without harming the public or the environment?
- If NRC authorizes SONGS to re-start, what steps, if any, will you take to monitor the SONGS steam generators to ensure that tube wear does not continue?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you regarding this important request. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF/mbn/ba