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General Comment

We will need many CONCENTRATED (not DIFFUSE) sources of electric power to supply our rapidly expanding modern civilization. San Onofre occupies about 60 acres of land. A solar plant producing the same amount of power (but only when the sun is bright) would occupy about 300 SQUARE MILES. We also need power sources that do not pollute our atmosphere with toxic and greenhouse gasses. Every solar or wind generation plant requires a natural gas burning backup plant for times when the sun doesn't shine or the wind doesn't blow. There are many new and very safe designs for nuclear plants available that can not melt down. Among them are modular helium cooled fission reactors using gas turbines to generate electricity. Many of these new plants are being built in India as we speak. (Not ONE has been licensed by the U.S. NRC.) Coal plants are the most rapidly expanding source of electrical power. Coal plants release toxic sulfur gasses, greenhouse gasses, as well as natural radioactive particulates into the environment. Nuclear plants release none of these. Nuclear is surpassed only by natural gas as the least expensive source of electrical energy. Safe nuclear energy is by far the most concentrated source of electrical power with the least environmental impact. San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) produced a fifth of the electric power in Southern California. This summer when we have rolling blackouts, and the air is grossly polluted with the fossil fuel plants coming on line to replace SONGS power output, perhaps at that time the NRC will bend to public outrage and allow San Onofre to go on line again ... at reduced power, or whatever the NRC deems necessary for safe operation.

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