



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

RULES AND DIRECTIVES
BRANCH
USNRC

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Add= B. Benney (bjb)

Dear Chairman MacFarlane:

San Onofre Nuclear Reactor may restart May or June 2013 WITHOUT repair or replacement of defective parts

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced plans to approve SoCal Edison's request to lower San Onofre safety standards and may do so in less than 30 days¹ – removing obstacles to the restart of the defective San Onofre Unit 2 nuclear reactor as early as May or June 2013.

San Onofre does NOT meet current NRC operating requirements. Both Unit 2 and 3 reactors show decades of wear in critical steam generator tubes after less than two years of operation. Unit 3 leaked radiation in less than one year. Edison said these steam generators would last decades. Instead, thousands of defective tubes needed plugging — unprecedented in NRC history. See Plugged Tubes Chart on reverse. NRC Inspector, Greg Werner, said no technology exists to detect operating steam generator tube radiation leaks until AFTER they occur. Therefore, we will be part of a nuclear experiment.

The NRC ignored Senator Barbara Boxer's and Rep. Ed Markey's request to complete the safety investigation before taking action that could lead to restart. Senator Barbara Boxer, Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, issued the following statement:

"The NRC staff proposal, which could pave the way for the restart of the San Onofre nuclear power plant before the investigations of the crippled plant are completed, is dangerous and premature. It makes absolutely no sense to even consider taking any steps to reopen San Onofre until these investigations look at every aspect of reopening the plant given the failure of the tubes that carry radioactive water. In addition, the damaged plant is located in an area at risk of earthquake and tsunamis. With eight million people living within 50 miles of this plant, the staff proposal is beyond irresponsible."

To meet NRC's structural integrity standard, San Onofre must be able to operate at 100% Rated Thermal Power for two years before it is considered safe to operate. Now the NRC plans to approve Edison's request to lower this to 70% thermal power during Cycle 17. If approved, Edison would be able to restart their defective Unit 2 nuclear reactor without the rigors of a thorough license amendment process and public adjudicatory hearing on the San Onofre safety issues.

Contact Senator Barbara Boxer and NRC Chairman Allison Macfarlane. Tell them:

- **Do not allow lowering of San Onofre safety standards.**
- **Do not allow restart of defective San Onofre nuclear reactors.**
- **Require a thorough license amendment process and hearing on San Onofre safety issues.**

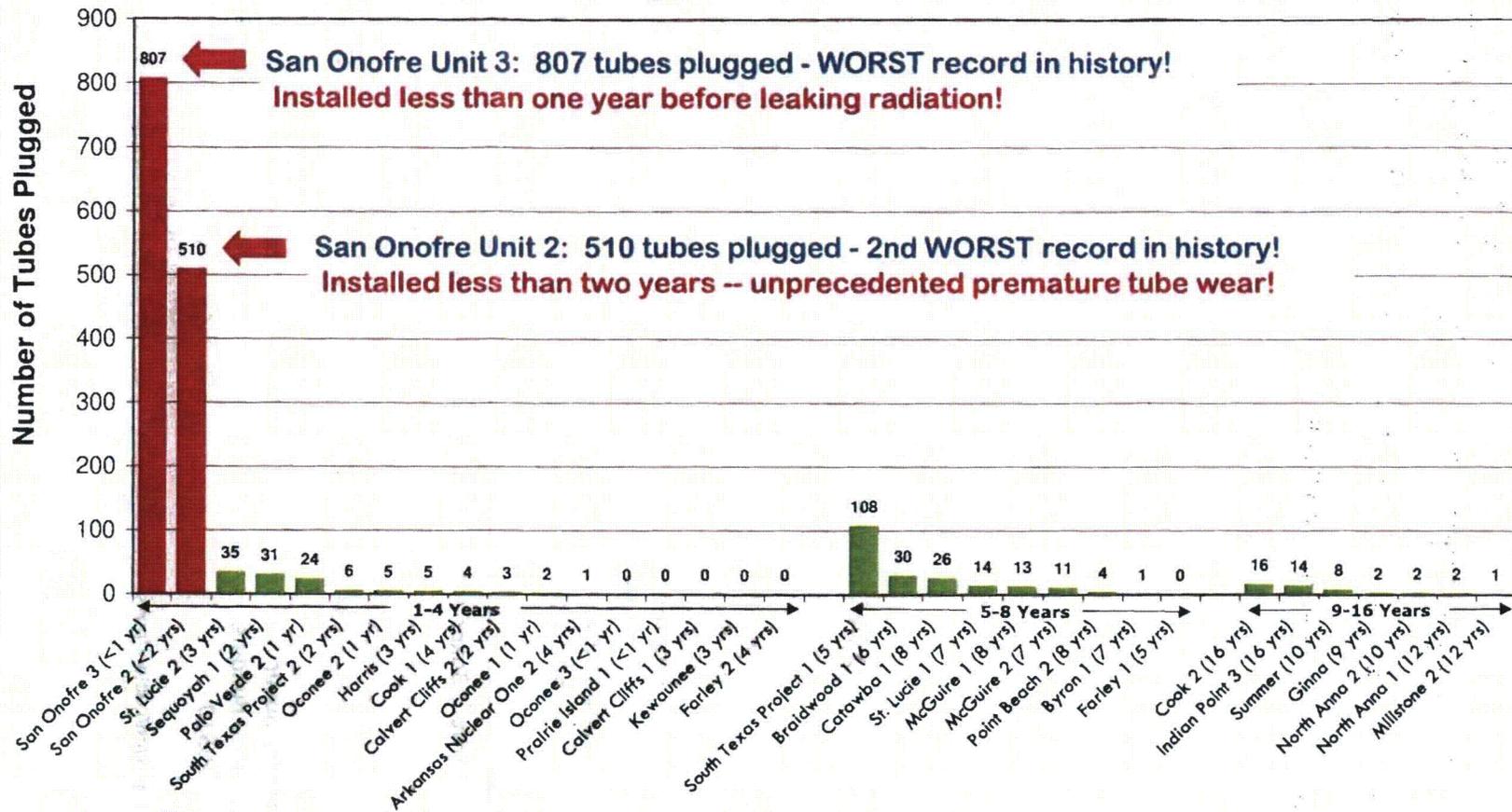
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For more information, go to SanOnofreSafety.org or email Gary@SanClementeGreen.org.

¹ <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1309/ML13098A020.pdf>

U.S. Nuclear Reactors: Replacement Steam Generators Tubes Plugged to Avoid Radiation Leaks



← **San Onofre Unit 3: 807 tubes plugged - WORST record in history!**
Installed less than one year before leaking radiation!

← **San Onofre Unit 2: 510 tubes plugged - 2nd WORST record in history!**
Installed less than two years -- unprecedented premature tube wear!

Nuclear Reactors (years replacement steam generators in operation before tubes plugged)

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION: www.nrc.gov/info-finder/reactor/songs/tube-degradation.html#data,

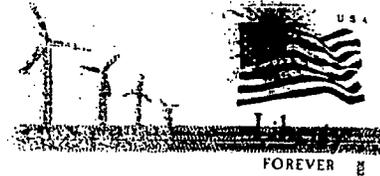
<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML0723/ML072330588.pdf>, <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1127/ML11270A015.pdf>

FAIREWINDS: http://fairewinds.org/sites/fairewinds.org/files/reports/Edison_RSGs@SO_US_Worst_2012-7-11_FairewindsRptFOE.pdf

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