

September 5, 2013

The Honorable Darrell Issa
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Issa:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of July 19, 2013, in which you urge the agency to review the regulatory process employed during recent activities at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) and determine how the regulatory system can be more fluid, transparent, and efficient.

The Commission agrees that the recent experience with SONGS provides an important opportunity and evaluating lessons learned is an approach regularly used by the NRC to identify improvements, including potential enhancements to the agency's regulatory processes. Consistent with this practice, the agency plans to perform a lessons learned review of the staff's oversight of the SONGS steam generator replacement project and associated proposed restart activities. While the scope and timing of this review are still under development, it is expected to begin this fall.

Our approach as a continuous learning organization has been critical to our success in protecting public health and safety. The agency also adheres to a set of Principles of Good Regulation that focus on ensuring safety and security while appropriately balancing the interests of those affected by the NRC's actions, including the public and the licensees. In applying these principles, the agency strives to develop and implement regulations that are coherent, logical, and practical, and informed by all available facts and opinions.

We will continue to update you on the NRC's work related to SONGS. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Rebecca Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Allison M. Macfarlane

Identical letter sent to:

The Honorable Darrell Issa
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Devin Nunes
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom McClintock
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515