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 50-362 San Onofre Nuclear Station, Unit 3, Southern California  
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SUBJECT: Package of two ltrs supporting licensing of facilities.

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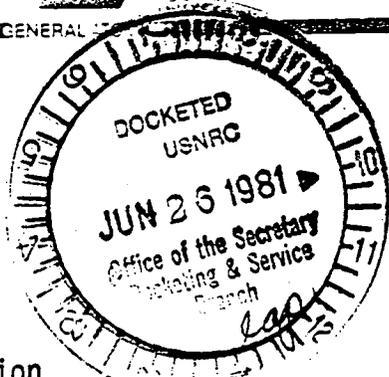
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GENERAL ATOMIC COMPANY  
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(714) 455-2080



June 22, 1981

HAROLD M. AGNEW  
President

Office of the Secretary  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Reference: NRC Docket Nos. 50-361-OL  
50-362-OL  
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Units 2 & 3

Gentlemen:

I have been involved with nuclear energy for forty years. I had the unique opportunity of being with Enrico Fermi when we achieved the first controlled fission reaction in 1941, and I have seen firsthand the awesome amount of energy that is released through nuclear fission. This energy is our servant, and while its first application was in weapons, peaceful civilian applications of nuclear energy for electric power production and in the medical and research fields have already provided enormous benefits to mankind. There is the promise of even greater benefits in the future -- particularly in eliminating our extremely hazardous strategic dependence on Mid-East oil.

But we must have the public understand the true facts of nuclear energy. Unfortunately, one needs to know more about a technology to be for it than one needs to know to be against it. The situation is not different from endeavoring to introduce a new food to a small child.

There is a fundamental difference between nuclear energy, or fission, and chemical energy, which is available when you burn coal or other combustible fuels. When a nucleus fissions or when a piece of carbon or some hydrogen is burned, energy is released. The difference between the fission energy and chemical energy is enormous. In the case of each fission reaction, about 215 million energy units are released, while in each chemical reaction only 3 units are released. In other words, you get 70 million times more energy per reacting molecule from fission than from any form of chemical combustion, a significant -- and valuable -- leverage available to us that we cannot turn our backs on.

Another point to consider is that where there are many uses for coal, oil, natural gas, etc., uranium is uniquely suited to producing heat and electricity -- and not much else. It is therefore in both our short-term and long-term best interest to substitute uranium for fossil fuels in the electricity generation process, and to conserve those fossil fuels for use as transportation fuels, as feedstocks for the petrochemical industry, and for other activities where there is no cheap, clean, safe substitute available. The

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June 22, 1981

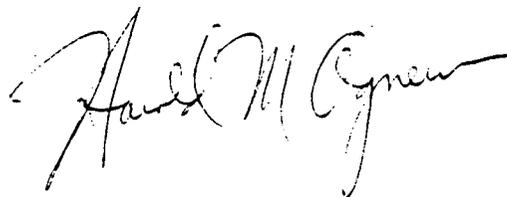
United States is unique in that our energy reserves in uranium and thorium are many times greater than our coal energy reserves.

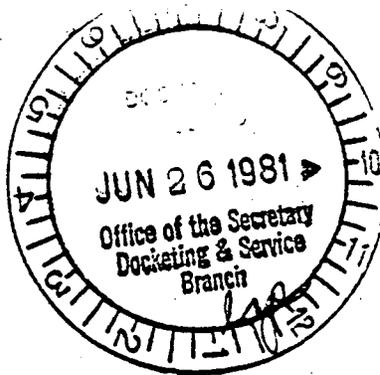
As a businessman, I'm also concerned about the future availability, reliability and cost of electricity to my company. General Atomic Company is a major user of electricity and a major employer in the San Diego area. Our work, much of it devoted to the development of new sources of energy for the next century, depends on having an adequate supply of electricity at a price that we can afford to pay. So do the more than 2,000 jobs provided by General Atomic. If we cannot run our machinery, computers, and other equipment vital to our operations, our people won't be able to work, a matter of significant economic and social consequence not only to our company and to the individuals involved, but to the larger community as well.

In 1980, our electric bill amounted to \$3.5 million -- in spite of a vigorous conservation effort that has brought our monthly electricity consumption down nearly 30% compared to the 1979 level. Our rates have risen from 5.3 cents/kilowatt hour in January 1980, to 9.8 cents/kilowatt hour last month -- an 85% increase in the last 17 months. This increase is almost entirely attributable to increased costs of fuel (primarily oil) used to generate the power. The only hope that I see for a reduction -- or at least a stabilization -- of our electric rates is to reduce that dependence on expensive oil as a boiler fuel. It costs only about one-third as much to produce electricity from nuclear energy as it does from oil. Getting the San Onofre units on line will give us some rate relief, in addition to assuring an adequate, reliable supply of electricity.

You are well aware of the enormous costs to the ratepayers that each additional day's delay in approving the application for an operating license represents. Units 2 and 3 have undergone study, review, evaluation, and modification all the way through the planning and construction stages. The issues still in contention, seismic safety and emergency response plans, have been the subjects of intensive investigation, study and expert testimony. We have reached a point where a decision must be made to go forward with the project. There is already in the record a convincing body of evidence that San Onofre Nuclear Generation Stations Units 2 and 3 are properly designed, properly sited, properly constructed, have met all the regulatory requirements, are safe to operate, and should be issued an operating license. There is nothing to be gained by additional delay, much to be lost, and I urge you to take positive action on the applicant's petition as soon as possible.

Sincerely,





3751 Jennings Street  
San Diego, CA 92106  
June 22, 1981

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
San Onofre Licensing Proceedings  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter in support of expeditious licensing of the nuclear plants at San Onofre, California. I realize the hearings are just starting and considerable controversy surrounds the licensing of these plants. The important thing to keep in mind, in my opinion, is what each side has to gain financially from the licensing or non-licensing of San Onofre.

The opponents who claim to be against the plants "for the good of the American people" are definitely trying to deceive someone. They are being supported financially by one organization or another who probably enjoys tax-free status from the government. If you think they are doing it for free because they have time on their hands, you would be sorely mistaken. They are being paid, on the average, and have simply been cajoled into thinking they are doing something good for the people.

People who, like myself, are in favor of San Onofre licensing, along with all the rest of the plants in the U.S. that are waiting for fuel, are simply sick and tired of paying exorbitant utility rates when there simply is no need for it. Our dependence upon people like the Saudi Arabians for our very existence has got to be curtailed. Nuclear plants of the pressurized water type as well as breeder reactors and the high-temperature gas-cooled reactor must continue to advance within the bounds of realistic safety measures. In this way, our dependence will be upon resources that we control. I also support the use of coal-fired plants as a short-term corrective measure for our delays of the past but only so long as it takes to get an adequate number of nuclear plants on line. Coal plants are very damaging to the environment and should be used as a stop-gap only until other less damaging resources are developed such as solar, fusion, geothermal, wind, and MHD. These resources are not proving economically feasible within our current financial environment. I do feel they will become viable in the future, and research must continue so that we can use these systems when they come within the bounds of realistic rates of return on investment and provide economical utility charges to the consumer.

I, therefore, urge you to consider carefully and realistically the arguments that will be presented to you in the next few days and hopefully come to the conclusion that licensing and fuel loading of the San Onofre plants should commence as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

*Donald J. Spellman*  
Donald J. Spellman  
DSOB  
S/0