

December 13, 2013

Mr. Adam Hill, Supervisor, District 3
San Luis Obispo County
1055 Monterey, Room D430
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Mr. Hill:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your October 22, 2013, letter expressing concerns about the safe storage of spent nuclear fuel at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. The NRC has an extensive history of ensuring reactor spent fuel pool safety through its regulatory oversight, supported by numerous research studies. These studies have concluded that spent fuel pools and dry casks both provide adequate protection of the public health and safety and the environment.

Nevertheless, as part of its post-Fukushima activities, the NRC staff completed a new study of potential consequences of a beyond-design-basis earthquake affecting the spent fuel pool for a U.S. Mark I boiling water reactor (also known as the spent fuel pool study). The study was issued on October 9, 2013, (SECY-13-0112, "Consequence Study of a Beyond-Design-Basis Earthquake Affecting the Spent Fuel Pool for a U.S. Mark I Boiling-Water Reactor"), and is available on the NRC Web site (www.nrc.gov) and in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession No. ML13256A342. The NRC staff subsequently completed a generic assessment of whether regulatory action might be warranted to require expedited transfer of spent fuel to dry cask storage. It was provided to the Commission on November 12, 2013 (COMSECY-13-0030, "Staff Evaluation on Recommendation for Japan Lessons-Learned Tier 3 Issue on Expedited Transfer of Spent Fuel"), which is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML13273A601.

The Commission is currently deliberating whether the NRC should undertake additional studies of possible requirements for expediting the movement of spent fuel from SFPs to dry cask storage. A Commission meeting on spent fuel pool safety and consideration of expedited transfer of spent fuel is currently planned for January 6, 2014. If you have additional information that the Commission should consider during its deliberations, please bring it to the agency's attention before that meeting. Thank you for sharing your concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Allison M. Macfarlane