

Rulemaking1CEm Resource

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Subject: FW: Written Public Comments for NRC Waste Confidence Rulemaking

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TITLE: Waste Confidence—Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel

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From: Karenavilla [<mailto:karenavilla@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2013 4:33 PM
To: RulemakingComments Resource
Subject: Written Public Comments for NRC Waste Confidence Rulemaking

Statement of Karen Avilla, City Treasurer, City of Carson, CA

My name is Karen Avilla and I serve as City Treasurer for the City of Carson, CA. I also serve as President of the Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO). I am very appreciative of the opportunity to share my thoughts on the important topic of waste confidence and its relationship to continued nuclear plant licensing and operations.

As an elected official, I believe that nuclear energy is an integral part of a balanced, national energy plan. Nuclear is a clean and reliable energy source that is producing electricity for millions across the nation and in my home state of California.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, nuclear energy generates 26.5% of the carbon-free electricity produced in California. And with this energy production comes employment opportunities for CA residents and economic growth for our local communities.

The operation of a nuclear plant requires hundreds of people to perform numerous and varied responsibilities. The closing of the San Onofre nuclear power plant means that 1,100 workers will lose their jobs. As an elected official that visited this plant, along with other members of Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO), I saw first-hand the number of jobs this plant was providing to CA residents. The decision to close this plant will have economic repercussions.

Nuclear energy facilities provide substantial economic benefits to the state and local community, including high-paying jobs and tax revenue that helps keep town services funded and property taxes much lower than they otherwise would be. While nuclear energy is a vital part of our state's electricity portfolio and economy, I recognize the need to address the transportation, storage and disposal of used nuclear fuel. I also recognize that it is the federal government's statutory responsibility to remove used fuel from nuclear energy

facilities. This has been federal law for 15 years now and the federal government has yet to move a single used fuel assembly.

The development of consolidated facilities for interim storage of spent fuel must be pursued until a permanent repository is ready. Over 100 commercial spent fuel pools are or have been in service in the U.S. Most of these pools have safely contained spent fuel for 30 years or longer. This is the equivalent of 3,000 years of operating experience with no significant environmental impact – a record that is very hard to compete with.

I urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to continue its strong, independent oversight of commercial nuclear energy facilities. It is important for the NRC to continue its efforts and maintain its 24-month schedule for the current waste confidence proceedings – as this will help to ensure that the industry can continue to move forward with both plant licensing and used fuel management.

I would like to thank the NRC for hosting this public meeting and providing an opportunity for comments.

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