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> The Honorable Bill Lowery House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Lowery:

I am writing this letter to all San Diego area congressional representatives in the expectation that some combined action will be taken on the problem discussed below.

DATE

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Habi Nuglar Regulatory

1362 Rodeo Drivel' LaJolla, CA 920<u>37</u>

March 20, 1981

Dr. Joseph M. Hendrie, recently reinstated as acting Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, has now expressed himself as favoring a simplified and expedited process for the licensing of nuclear power plants. Such a process is urgently needed and no more critically so than in California. Here the Diablo Canyon and San Onofre Nuclear Stations are hopelessly caught in bureaucratic foot-dragging and anti-nuke intervenor mischief.

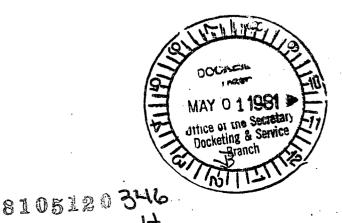
Diablo Canyon units (2) are now ready for operation, in fact, Unit No. 1 has been ready for the loading of fuel for the past 5 years.

The loss of this station's production is now costing the Ratepayers in the P. G. and E. service area \$2 millions per day for the purchase of replacement power plus an additional \$0.5 millions per day for interest charges.

And the situation at San Onofre is rapidly moving into the same level of unnecessary fiscal burden to the San Diego community. The latest news out of NRC is that the final licensing hearing has been postponed to early 1982.

Please take immediate steps, if possible through the entire California congressional delegation, to stiffen Dr. Hendrie's backbone and expedite the licensing of our California nuclear stations.

Incidentally, throughout the Nation we now have 11 new plants idle while NRC simply procrastinates - 11,000 MWs total capacity, energy equivalent 100 million barrels of OPEC oil per year. This is a national scandal.



incerely. E. Kiad, Fellow

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers.