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Storing Spent Nuclear Fuel Waste

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Requirements for the Indefinite Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel

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General Comment

Our family lives within 25 miles of San Onofre Nuclear Station. We have been fearful of a nuclear accident for many years. When San Onofre shut down, we felt a sense of relief. When the California Coastal Commission decided to allow the highly radioactive waste to be partially buried on the beach as storage, we were shocked and frightened. This fear has continued to grow the more we learn about the way this difficult problem of storage is handled. We were sad that we had to decide to sell our home and move away from the area because the manner and location for radioactive waste storage at San Onofre was susceptible to dangerous consequences.

Then we read the HELMS proposal. As we progressed through the document, we felt a growing sense of hope and security. We realized that by employing the HELMS guidelines, we would be able to keep our home and we would be able to continue to live in our neighborhood and continue to participate in our community.

While storage of highly radioactive waste is always difficult, the steps described in the HELMS proposal provide common sense solutions to hard problems. I hope that the NRC will

consider the value of the homes and businesses and land that will be destroyed if we have significant radiation leaks in the current storage situation. The solutions provided in the HELMS Proposal are elegant in their simplicity and in their usefulness to provide a framework upon which to solve the problem of high-level radioactive waste storage for the next 1000 years.