

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 17, 2019

The Honorable Kristine Svinicki
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Svinicki,

We write in response to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) call for input on the locations of public meetings that will be held as you develop your report on community involvement with decommissioning activities. The communities surrounding the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) have extensive experience addressing the issues associated with decommissioning. As such, we strongly urge you to hold a meeting in the vicinity of SONGS.

As you know, last year Congress directed the NRC to develop a report identifying best practices to foster community engagement with the decommissioning process executed by the Commission and its licensees. We have seen firsthand the need for improving this process as it relates to communities surrounding a decommissioning facility. While the economic impacts of decommissioning are often the central community issue stakeholders seek to address, it is critical that the NRC also generate public trust for the decommissioning activities taking place at a shuttered nuclear power plant. Without this trust, the Commission is not able to facilitate an open exchange of information with the public and decommissioning becomes much more challenging for a licensee. The NRC has not previously addressed this issue adequately, so we are hopeful your report will improve community engagement going forward.

As you seek input for the Commission's best practices report, it is imperative you hear from communities that have had diverse experiences with the decommissioning process. The communities around SONGS have a unique story to share that will be of great benefit to you as you develop public engagement best practices. Despite the existence of a licensee-sponsored SONGS Community Engagement Panel, we have heard from many community members who feel their voices have been ignored as decommissioning decisions are made. There is clearly insufficient communication and information sharing between the Commission, the public, and the licensee. This issue has been exacerbated by the NRC's decision to hold public meetings related to SONGS safety enforcement outside of local communities.

Again, we ask that you hold a public meeting in the community around SONGS as you develop your report on best practices for community engagement. We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



MIKE LEVIN
Member of Congress



HARLEY ROUDA
Member of Congress



SCOTT PETERS
Member of Congress