

From: Lubinski, John
Sent: Thursday, July 25, 2019 8:46 AM
To: babs.soller@gmail.com
Subject: Response to your e-mail to Chairman Svinicki

Dear Ms. Soller,

Thank you for your email to Chairman Svinicki on June 25, 2019, regarding Representative Levin's request for a full-time resident inspector at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), which is conducting power reactor decommissioning activities and spent fuel handling and storage operations. After careful consideration of Representative Levin's request, the NRC concluded that a full-time resident inspector at SONGS is not necessary to provide for the protection of public health and safety, nor is a resident inspector necessarily the best method for effective regulatory oversight at this site.

As noted in the responses to Representative Levin (see attached), power reactor decommissioning activities present fewer radiological and/or nuclear safety hazards than similar activities at an operating power reactor site. Spent fuel handling and storage operations represent a slightly higher risk than other decommissioning activities, but are usually limited in duration. The NRC will continue to utilize visiting inspectors with different areas of specialized expertise as appropriate to observe various ongoing licensee work activities. The NRC will not hesitate to devote the inspection resources necessary to ensure the safe decommissioning at SONGS.

Sincerely,
John W. Lubinski, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards