

October 12, 2012

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman, Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of October 4, 2012, seeking reassurance that the NRC will fully investigate the issues with the steam generators at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) before determining whether that facility will be allowed to restart. You reference in this regard the completion of the review of unresolved items, including the manufacturing of the steam generator tubes and the modeling of the steam generators' operation.

The NRC is continuing with its independent inspection and evaluation activities and will be reviewing and assessing Southern California Edison's response to the NRC's Confirmatory Action Letter and its proposed restart plan. The inspections and reviews will be thorough and complete and will ensure that the cause of the tube wear is understood and that actions are implemented that will prevent loss of tube integrity.

As specifically requested in your letter, I reaffirm the Commission's commitment that the agency will not allow a restart at SONGS until the investigation is completed and the facility is safe to operate.

If you need any additional information, please contact me or Rebecca Schmidt, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

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Allison M. Macfarlane