

Stop the San Onofre Nuclear Experiment!

NRC may approve restart of broken reactor in June!

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced plans to approve SoCal Edison's request to lower San Onofre nuclear reactor safety standards and may do so in less than 30 days,¹ removing obstacles to early restart of the defective San Onofre Unit 2 reactor.

San Onofre's two nuclear reactors do NOT meet current NRC operating requirements. Both Unit 2 and 3 reactors show decades of wear in critical steam generator tubes after less than two years of operation. Unit 3 leaked radiation in less than one year. Edison said these steam generators would last 40 to 60 years. Instead, thousands of defective tubes needed plugging to avoid radiation leaks — unprecedented in NRC history. See *Plugged Tubes and Worst Safety Complaint Record Charts* on reverse. NRC Inspector, Greg Werner, said no technology exists to detect operating steam generator tube radiation leaks until AFTER they occur. Therefore, we will be part of a nuclear experiment.

The NRC ignored Senator Barbara Boxer's and Rep. Ed Markey's request to complete the safety investigation before taking action that could lead to restart. Senator Barbara Boxer, Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, issued the following statement:

"The NRC staff proposal, which could pave the way for the restart of the San Onofre nuclear power plant before the investigations of the crippled plant are completed, is dangerous and premature. It makes absolutely no sense to even consider taking any steps to reopen San Onofre until these investigations look at every aspect of reopening the plant given the failure of the tubes that carry radioactive water. In addition, the damaged plant is located in an area at risk of earthquake and tsunami. With eight million people living within 50 miles of this plant, the staff proposal is beyond irresponsible."

To meet NRC's structural integrity standard, San Onofre must be able to operate at 100% Rated Thermal Power for two years before it is considered safe to operate. Now the NRC plans to approve Edison's license amendment request to lower this to 70% thermal power during Cycle 17. If approved, it would make it easier for Edison to restart their defective Unit 2 nuclear reactor.

On May 13th, NRC's independent Federal Atomic Safety Licensing Board (ASLB) agreed with nuclear expert Arnie Gundersen², and other independent nuclear experts, and ruled that Edison's restart plan is experimental.³ They granted Friends of the Earth petition asking the NRC to require Edison to undergo a trial-like license amendment process before a judge, which includes public hearings, sworn testimony from expert witnesses and rules of evidence. However, this ruling does not affect the 70% power license amendment request and the NRC Commissioners may overrule the ASLB decision.

Tell Senator Barbara Boxer & NRC Chairman Allison Macfarlane to support Friends of the Earth petition:

- Do not allow lowering of San Onofre safety standards.
- Stop the nuclear experiment – do not allow restart of defective San Onofre nuclear reactors.
- Require a thorough license amendment process and hearing on San Onofre safety issues.

Tell your local, state and Congressional representatives to submit similar comments.

Find your state and Congressional representatives at: www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_r.htm.

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-3553 www.boxer.senate.gov/en/contact/policycomments.cfm	Chairman Allison M. Macfarlane U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Mail Stop O-16G4, Washington, DC 20555-0001 (301) 415-1750 chairman@nrc.gov
--	---

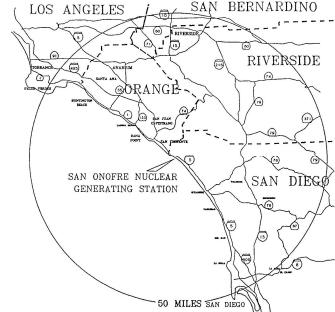
For more information: SanOnofreSafety.org

Orange County: Gary@SanClementeGreen.org San Diego: MarthaSullivan@mac.com

¹ <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1309/ML13098A020.pdf>

² <http://www.fairewinds.org/content/nrc-lapdog-or-watchdog>

³ <http://sanonofresafety.files.wordpress.com/2013/05/2013-05-13aslb-sanonofre-lbp13-07.pdf>



Safety Complaints from On-Site Employees & Contractors

U.S. Nuclear Power Plants

2007 to 2012 (6 years)

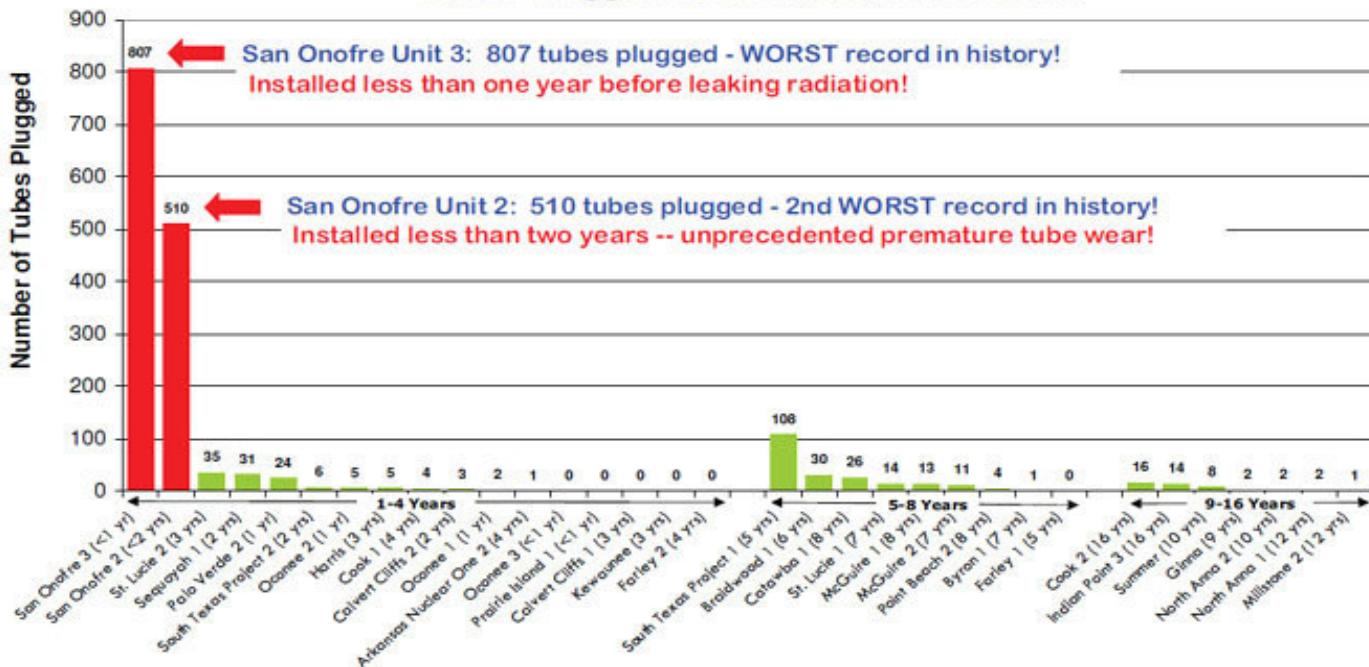


The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) refers to these complaints as "Allegations from On-Site Sources" (current/former power plant employees/contractors and anonymous allegors). These are reports of impropriety or inadequacy of NRC-related safety or regulatory concerns. One allegation report may contain multiple allegations; however, the NRC counts it as one allegation in these statistics (Note: A concern about a safety-conscious work environment (SCWE) problem at a facility is an important allegation. However, a Notice of Violation cannot be issued, because there is no applicable NRC regulation.) There are 64 U.S. nuclear power plants & 104 reactors. Plants with multiple reactors are noted.

Source: www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/allegations/statistics.htm

SanOnofreSafety.org

U.S. Nuclear Reactors: Replacement Steam Generators Tubes Plugged to Avoid Radiation Leaks



Nuclear Reactors (years replacement steam generators in operation before tubes plugged)

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION: www.nrc.gov/info-finder/reactor/songs/tube-degradation.html#data,

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML0723/ML072330588.pdf>, <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1127/ML11270A015.pdf>

FAIREWINDS: http://fairewinds.org/sites/fairewinds.org/files/reports/Edison_RSGs@SO_US_Worst_2012-7-11_FairewindsRptFOE.pdf