

June 13, 2014

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing in strong support of your efforts to provide the U.S. nuclear industry a viable solution to the decades-long challenge of permanent nuclear waste disposal. Your pilot program language included in the Senate's Fiscal Year 2014 Energy and Water Appropriations bill incentivizing interim storage at a consent-based location is a significant step forward in developing temporary storage of used nuclear fuel, while progress is made to develop a permanent geologic repository. It is my sincere hope that this pilot program is included in the Fiscal Year 2015 Energy and Water Appropriations bill and enacted into law.

As you know, the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) was permanently shut down in June 2013. Currently, there are 50 dry shielded canisters holding a total of 1,187 fuel assemblies licensed for storage and transport. There are an additional 2,668 fuel assemblies in the spent fuel pools, which will be off-loaded to approximately 100 dry shielded canisters in the next five to seven years. Once fully off-loaded from the spent fuel pools, there will be a total of 3,855 fuel assemblies in a projected 150 dry shielded canisters. In addition to SONGS, California is home to three other nuclear waste sites, including the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station, Humboldt Bay Nuclear Power Station, and the Diablo Canyon Power Plant. California needs a nuclear waste disposal solution.

The SONGS Community Engagement Panel (CEP) was created by Southern California Edison to be a conduit of information to the local community around SONGS. At each of the public meetings the CEP has held to date, CEP members and the public have expressed a strong desire for a permanent solution for off-site spent fuel storage. The CEP and the communities around SONGS recognize that there is no permanent repository option currently available to receive SONGS waste. Concerns including the spent fuel on site, close proximity to communities, and environmental impacts have been raised to the CEP.

That is why your legislative efforts to create a pilot program for a community to step forward with the consent of local and state governments and voluntarily host an interim storage facility has received near universal praise from area residents. It is a path forward to remove spent nuclear fuel from plants like SONGS that no longer operate, and to advance the public dialogue about permanent storage of nuclear waste in a positive direction.

I am pleased to lend my support to your efforts on this important issue, not just for Southern California Edison, but for all Californians.

Sincerely,

