

**Summary of Discussion with Allison MacFarlane
Chair of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

**San Juan Capistrano, California
January 14, 2013**

Chairperson MacFarlane led a delegation of five NRC officers and staff including Greg Warnick, senior NRC inspector on-site at San Onofre and Nathan San Filippo, NRC senior advisor.

The meeting was organized by Gene Stone of ROSE. Other attendees from the public side included Glenn Pascall, Chair of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Task Force on San Onofre; Gary and Laurie Headrick, officers of San Clemente Green; Carol Jahnkow of the Peace Resource Center (San Diego); Martha Sullivan, "San Diego Democratic Party Activist," Ray Lutz of Citizen Oversight (San Diego) and a recent Democratic Party candidate for Congress; and Donna Gilmore, a San Clemente resident affiliated with activist groups that held a press conference at the PUC hearing in San Francisco earlier this month.

Key issues raised by public participants included:

- **Radiation monitoring.** Concern was expressed that there currently is no reliable, ongoing mechanism to monitor and report radiation levels. Chair MacFarlane cited an Illinois statute that may be a model for other states. It requires such monitoring, with related costs paid by the utility.
- **Steam generator monitoring.** Concern was expressed that there is no public access to regular monitoring of steam generator wear and damage. The information is currently shielded by a non-disclosure agreement.
- **Emergency preparedness.** Chair MacFarlane noted that the reach of NRC jurisdiction covers only on-site emergencies. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have jurisdiction over preparedness and response in areas beyond the boundary of the plant itself.
- **Earthquake vulnerability.** Despite a long history of earthquake risk assessment expressed in "magnitude" measured on the Richter Scale, it now appears that San Onofre operators and their consultants are shifting to "ground thrust" as the new metric. Gary Headrick of San Clemente Green argued that by either measure San Onofre appears exposed to levels of earthquake intensity beyond its design capacity.
- **Plant safety violations.** Several speakers noted the remarkably high level of safety violations that have been reported at San Onofre over a period of years, and related reports of whistle-blower intimidation.

- **Transparency of NRC process.** Several speakers expressed concern regarding instances of NRC non-responsiveness in which information inquiries have gone unanswered. Gene Stone of ROSE cited federal executive order 13579, among the first issued by the Obama Administration, which seeks to correct this situation among all federal agencies.
- **Transparency of information.** Ray Lutz and other speakers noted that details of nuclear power plant operating agreements are not made public. This creates an incentive for operators to place as much content as possible within the scope of such agreements, thereby shielding data and information from the public.
- **Decision-making silos.** Glenn Pascall of the Sierra Club said that while the NRC and the California Public Utilities Commission have a clear sense of each other's area of jurisdiction, this has caused each agency to be less conversant with issues under current investigation by the other. The result is to deny both regulators a sense of total context regarding San Onofre. Pascall distributed a list of 12 issues divided between NRC and PUC decision-making. Gene Stone seconded Pascall's concern on the need for a higher level of inter-agency understanding.