

# DOCKET

11-IEP-1J

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August 2, 2011

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office, MS-4  
Re: Docket No. 11-IEP-1J  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: "California Nuclear Power Plant Issues"

Dear Members of the California Energy Commission:

I am writing to you as a citizen and a concerned mother of two young children as well as one in-utero living close to the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. I am a fourth-generation Californian and live in this state because of its agricultural abundance, dynamic and progressive culture, as well as its expansive and diverse environmental landscape. I was born and raised, graduated college, met my husband and started a family here. California has been very good to me.

Since the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear catastrophe in Fukushima, Japan I have become very informed about the staggering dangers of nuclear power, nuclear waste and nuclear fallout upon the health and well being of all biota. I was trained in Biology and Human Physiology at U.C. Davis and have come to the conclusion that this technology is antithetical to all life forms and life itself.

My most compelling thoughts are these:

1. Nuclear power provides only 7.5% of our usage in the state, hardly a drop in the bucket when so many other innovations that will never risk lives are available to more than make up the difference.
2. The radioactive isotopes which are the inevitable byproducts of nuclear power - cesium, strontium, tritium, uranium, plutonium, americium, among many others - have half lives of 30 years up to 4.5 billion years to become "less harmful" - not benign - to all life forms. These isotopes become dispersed throughout our environment and can never be "cleaned up".
3. Radioactive isotopes are microscopic and scentless, so detection of radioactive fallout from nuclear disasters can only be detected by a Geiger counter (not a standard issue at every residence). The particles travel in air across thousands of miles via the trade winds, eventually circulating the hemisphere in which they were released. They enter the hydrological cycle, condensing in rainwater and snow, making their way into our aquifers that span the state. From this source our commercial and residential farmers water crops; the roots of all plants absorb this water and uptake these tiny particles that

become incorporated into the leaves and fruit that are harvested and consumed both locally and globally. Dairy cows graze on grass and alfalfa, further concentrating the isotopes in their milk, which then become pervasive in the state's dairy products. Via all environmental channels these isotopes make their way back to humans through the air we breathe, water we drink and food we eat. Low level radiation exposure/consumption over time has been confirmed to be just as detrimental as a single high level exposure event, so unless we can import all of the natural resources required for survival and confirm they are free of radioactive fallout, then we have no course for protection over the long term.

4. Radioactive isotopes can be inhaled, ingested or imbibed. Regardless of the method in which it enters the human body, a single isotope immediately begins to irradiate the cells around it. Irradiation affects the cells in such a way that they eventually leave the cell cycle of growth/death regulation to grow without an off switch, producing a malignant tumor or cancerous growth which can metastasize, spreading to other regions of the body which eventually kill the host.

5. Children and pregnant women are the demographic most vulnerable to radioactive isotope assimilation. Any life form actively generating new cell growth - fetuses, young children, teenagers - are all at the greatest risk of incorporating isotopes into their bone, muscle, cardiovascular or lymphatic system. The results of this become apparent 2-60 years following the uptake in the form of thyroid cancer, leukemia, cardiovascular perforations, as well as many other tragic and prematurely fatal illnesses. Birth defects to fetuses frequently render the newborns dead shortly after birth. Physical deformations include brains which form outside of the skull cavity, Elephantitis-like disfigurement of limbs and digits, legs which cross and turn inward preventing the ability to walk, as well as many other monstrous defects. Motor and cognitive function is greatly diminished in children exposed to radioactive isotopes while in-utero. I am doing all that I can to ensure that my two young children, as well as the 6-month old fetus growing inside of me, have a healthy head start in life - but the very real possibility that any of the above conditions could render my genetic legacy come to an end during my lifetime as a result of nuclear fallout from a catastrophe at San Onofre is a reality that I never want to experience.

We must learn from the very public tragedies that have taken place in Chernobyl (1986) and now in Fukushima (2011). Swift decisions to eliminate nuclear power as a clean, safe, or viable option for energy generation here in California must be made to protect all that is sacred to us: our families, health, food supply and natural environment. If we choose to ignore these obvious harbingers and allow California to become the next nuclear tragedy, then where do we all go? Is nuclear power - when so many other options that will never threaten our very existence are available to us - worth losing all that we cherish and live for?

Please make a bold and forward-thinking choice, as California is known for in the progressive global environment, to **ELIMINATE NUCLEAR POWER** indefinitely.

Please choose to protect the lives of California's citizens of all ages, especially the very young who are the hope for our future, and make a statement to the world that California will not become the next tragedy of the nuclear industry.

Sincerely,

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