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To: <docket@energy.state.ca.us>
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Subject: Comment for docket No. 11-IEP-1J
Attachments: Tsunami Wall Collage.jpg; DSC_4082.jpg; Tsunami Wall Collage.jpg; DSC_4082.jpg; DSC_4082.jpg; Tsunami Wall Collage.jpg; DSC_4082.jpg

To the California Energy Commission,

My wife and I formed a citizens group four years ago to create a Sustainability Action Plan for San Clemente. In the process San Clemente Green became well known throughout the community as the group to go to for other related projects such as community gardens and bringing an organic food co-op to town. Most unexpectedly, in January 2010 we began receiving emails from whistleblowers from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station who were afraid to go to their managers or the NRC for fear of retaliation. Suddenly this topic became a focal point of our efforts although we never intended it to be.

We developed a relationship with the NRC as people providing an important service, so we were told. It seemed they were taking all of this very seriously, however nothing substantial was ever done about it. My relationship with the NRC went from giving them the benefit of the doubt to total distrust when I got a call from an insider last Thanksgiving Day asking if we had heard what happened at the plant. It turns out a steel I-beam had fallen into the spent fuel pool from 24' high. When I asked the NRC about it they said it was true, but because the I-beam planed out horizontal on its way through the water it did not hit anything very hard and just left a dent in the grid holding the rods. This took place in a room where visitors must be inspected for any loose articles, like glasses which must be on a lanyard, so nothing falls into the pool.

I was shocked that this did not rise to the level of a safety violation. The NRC simply advised them to attach a tether to the I-beam so it would not happen again. That is when any sense of trust in the NRC vanished. When Fukushima happened, and we heard all of the same reassurances about preparedness and redundant systems and that it could never happen here I became afraid and angry. I determined that this issue was simply the most important thing I could do with my life, making sure they get shutdown ASAP. Our future is in the hands of a dysfunctional and self-regulated system run by those who stand to gain immense profit with the status quot. It is criminal to allow this situation to continue any longer than necessary.

Some things are even more obvious, like the fact that they continue to claim they have a 30' tsunami wall. I missed my opportunity to share that with you when I gave public input at the hearing last week, but maybe you could ask them to explain it to you. I asked Edison on our break at the hearing why they make that claim when I have measured it myself to be only 14" above high tide. You'll cringe when you hear their convoluted explanation. I've attached an image showing the actual truth of the matter.

I saw how much other solid testimony was available for your consideration so I won't repeat it all here. I just want to give you my personal perspective that I shared with our members in San Clemente Green when returning from Sacramento.

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*I had no idea what to expect at the California Energy Commission hearing regarding the future of nuclear power being held in Sacramento. Previous experiences at meetings on this topic had me on the defensive right from the start. Little did I know that I would be so welcomed by people who had no other purpose than to get down to the truth at this workshop. I listened with great satisfaction as state officials grilled industry representatives with the kinds of questions I had always expected the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to ask, but they never do. *

*As I heard one report after another from reputable sources casting doubt upon nearly every aspect of nuclear power I'd frantically take notes, rewriting my own prepared statement throughout the proceedings using this newly acquired knowledge to better support my own arguments. Seismologists made statements confirming the likelihood of overwhelming earthquakes and tsunamis, calling for more studies to be done immediately, especially near SONGS. Nuclear engineers ripped holes in assumptions of an arrogant industry. For me it was like experiencing the moment in the Wizard of Oz when Toto pulled back the curtain to reveal the true nature of the Magnificent One. Much like the Wizard, Edison's team seemed to fumble with convoluted explanations and wishful thinking, becoming smaller and smaller in stature as they insisted on things that were obviously no longer credible. *

*It was a long but satisfying day of testimony with only public comment remaining on the Agenda. By this time I was exhausted but inspired and ready with notes-a-plenty. The moment I had been sent there for by my supporters back at home was soon approaching. I listened intently to eloquent, knowledgeable, well prepared speakers come to the microphone before me. I was nervous but prepared and even a little anxious to have my turn. Then the most unexpected thing happened. Rochelle Becker of Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility gave her awe inspiring presentation. This is someone we work with closely and as she wrapped up her comments by showing a picture of a young boy in Japan being monitored for radiation, she explained her own emotional response to such a telling photo. I was feeling the gravity of her concern when she concluded her presentation by saying this is happening right now, all over Japan. She then showed the next picture and said "don't let this happen here". It was a photo I had given her previously for a campaign we had worked on together. It was of my own granddaughter standing next to an evacuation sign in a playground. I was caught off guard and it hit me hard. *

It was too close to home and so easy to imagine, it was as if the tragedy had already struck. There stood my little Isabella, big as life, her innocent expression almost pleading with those in the room to prevent such a senseless tragedy from ever taking place. I found myself fighting back the tears confronted with the evidence I had been hearing all day long that this is where we are headed if we did not change course soon. I dreaded the sound of my name being called to speak, but sure enough my turn followed soon after. I fought with all my inner strength to control the emotional volcano erupting inside knowing it was hopeless. Taking a pass was not an option after all I had gone through to get there. I just had to give it my best shot. As I stepped to the podium, red eyed and quivering voice, I tried to explain why I was feeling so emotional and then I realized I was there for a purpose. Forget about the embarrassment. I had a job to do, and it certainly wasn't the one I had been preparing for.

I took a deep breath and started to speak loudly replacing fear with anger and conviction, delivering the shortest but what must have been the most passionate speech of the day. Half shouting, half crying, it went something like this. "My name is Gary Headrick, here to represent San Clemente Green, a concerned group of about a thousand citizens living next to San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. I'm speaking for everyone from that little girl in the photo from the playground, who happens to be my granddaughter, Isabella, and for the 8.5 million people within our evacuation zone" I held up my notes and said, "I was going to add my voice to the many others addressing the many concerns we share, but I have a different message now. We know all that we need to know to see that we are headed for disaster. This is not about trying to fix a broken industry. It is about millions of people's lives and livelihoods at stake here and it certainly is not about the money. It would be insanity to move forward with nuclear power in California, knowing what we already know. Please, no more studies, no more delays, we simply have to shut them down now!

*With that, I quickly returned to my seat, which unfortunately was in the front row. Not being sure what to do next I simply held my ground trying get a grip on what had just transpired. I sat it out for what seemed to be the longest time but finally decided to take my leave between speakers and found a place to simply be alone with my thoughts. I gave my wife, Laurie, a call and she reassured me that it was all good, even if it was quite unexpected. I guess it was part of the public's story that needed to be made real, not just expressed in theories or probabilities. Upon returning to the hearing room I was gratified to hear one of the commissioner's final comments reminding the others that the basis of their recommendations should be primarily about people and not money. *

I'm trying hard not to get my hopes up for fear of being disappointed by yet another government agency meant to protect its citizens, but I really do have faith in the CEC. I know there are a lot of factors to weigh and a lot of pressure on you to keep things the way they are. Please be strong and follow your deepest convictions about this matter that is so immensely important. The stakes are too high to get this wrong. The public will back you on a call for shutting down both of California's nuclear power plants, and we'll be happy to do whatever we need to do to conserve. Trust me; we are going to see this through, one way or another. Let's turn the corner and move quickly to renewable, clean and most of all safe sources of energy. Help California become the leader in this new field and lead us to a healthy and prosperous future.

Thank you,

Gary Headrick

(please see attachments: Tsunami Wall and Isabella)



WARNING



**SAN ONOFRE
EVACUATION ROUTE**

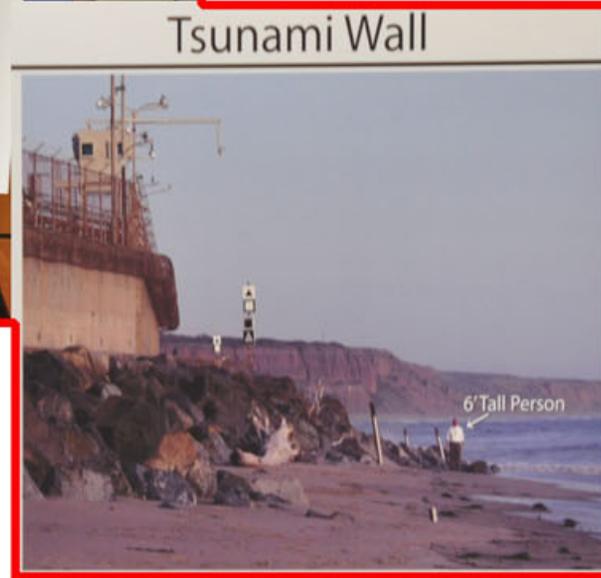
Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility | www.A4NR.org | Printed on recycled paper (100% PCW / FSC Certified)



SONGS REPRESENTATION OF 30' TSUNAMI WALL



FROM NRC/SONGS
HEARING ON 4/28/11



**The Art of
DECEPTION**

