

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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November 2, 2017

Kristine Svinicki, Chair  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Rick Perry, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585

**Re: Need for Permanent Storage Site for Nuclear Waste from California Coastal Nuclear Power Plants**

Dear Chair Svinicki and Secretary Perry:

On behalf of the California Coastal Commission (“Coastal Commission”), I am writing to urge you to work with Congress to expedite the nation’s efforts to identify and develop a safe, secure long-term storage facility for the spent nuclear fuel currently stored at nuclear power plant sites around the country. Action on finding a permanent waste repository or consolidated interim storage facility suitable for long-term storage has long been a vital national goal, and one which we wholeheartedly share. Meeting this goal is particularly urgent now, in order to alleviate the need for on-going storage at coastal power plant sites, which may be at risk from natural hazards such as earthquakes, erosion, flooding and sea level rise in the coming decades.

Because no permanent storage facility has yet been found, the Commission has had little choice but to issue coastal development permits for spent fuel dry storage facilities constructed at the three coastal nuclear power plants in California: Humboldt Bay Nuclear Power Plant, Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. It has been clear since the inception of the Commission’s authority in 1973 that the on-going storage of radioactive waste at coastal power plants – and, in the case of San Onofre, in close proximity to major Southern California urban areas – presents serious risks to coastal uses and resources in the event of a radiation release into the environment.

The dry storage facilities and/or spent fuel pools at Humboldt, Diablo Canyon and San Onofre are each, to varying degrees, subject to natural hazards such as ground shaking from earthquakes, coastal erosion, and flooding from storms or tsunamis. Though the on-site storage facilities were sited and designed to withstand these hazards in the near term, they were never designed to store spent fuel in perpetuity. The risks presented by natural hazards, especially coastal erosion and flooding driven by sea level rise, to spent fuel storage at coastal sites, will only increase over time and render even more imperative the need to transfer of the spent fuel to a secure inland location.

CCC Letter to NRC Chair and DOE Secretary

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We greatly appreciate your consideration of our comments on these matters of significant statewide and national public concern. If you have any questions, please contact Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director of the Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division, at (415) 904-5240.

Sincerely,

DAYNA BOCHCO  
Chair  
California Coastal Commission

cc: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. Senator Kamala Harris  
U.S. Senator Cory Gardner  
U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III  
U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa  
U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal  
U.S. Rep. Jared Huffman  
U.S. Rep. Fred Upton  
U.S. Rep. Bobby L. Rush  
CA Senator Mike McGuire  
CA Senator Bill Monning  
CA Senator Patricia Bates  
CA Assemblyman Jim Wood  
CA Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham  
CA Assemblyman Rocky Chávez  
Benjamin Friedman, Acting Administrator, NOAA  
John Laird, California Natural Resources Agency