

State of California  
Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission

## Memo

To: Commissioners  
Mr. Richard J. McCarthy, Executive Director

From: Robert Anderson, P.G., C.E.G.  
Seismic Safety Commission  
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Date: August 22, 2013

Subject: Update on the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCNPP) and  
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Stations (SONGS) Meetings of  
July and August, 2013

### Background:

On July 11<sup>th</sup> there were two meetings at the California Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco. The first one was regarding the disposition of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) in San Diego County and the second meeting was on the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant (DCNPP) in San Luis Obispo County.

A presentation was made by Southern California Edison's (SCE) Ms. Caroline McAndrews, the SONGS Director of Nuclear Strategic Projects. Ms. McAndrews said that they had not heard from the Nuclear Regular Commission if any Code of Federal Regulations Title 10 Part 50.54(f) issues were to be required since the plant was shut down and remaining fuel in the reactors was removed. In addition, SCE did no longer believe that AB 1632 applied to them, since SCE had formally told the NRC that they were not going to operate the plant as a nuclear power station.

Ms. McAndrews did say that SCE would continue its off shore low energy seismic reflection survey scheduled for August and October 2013. The results of the August survey effort should be available by March 2014 (the closure period for adding new data for developing a site characterization model update for SONGS for the NRC).

Dr. Graham Kent from the University of Nevada at Reno and Dr. Neil Driscoll from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography went over reprocessing of over 40 Chevron high energy seismic reflection lines from 1979 and JEBSCO lines from the late 1980's using modern techniques. The reprocessing did help answer some questions about the complexity of offshore structures (to the top of bedrock but no deeper).

One of the questions not answered was how far on shore does the Oceanside Blind Thrust and its detachment zone extend and does it pass underneath SONGS or not. This question could not be answered with the existing data and will not be available to be

answered with the low energy seismic survey results either. The other major question is how does the Newport Inglewood-Rose Canyon fault system interact at depth with the Ocean Blind thrust and its detachment zone and is the Oceanside Blind Thrust actually active?

During the afternoon of July 11<sup>th</sup>, PG&E representatives Drs Stewart Nishenko and Norm Abrahamson talked about progress on AB 1632 (2006, Blaksee) issues and the high energy offshore seismic reflection survey (not permitted by the California Coastal Commission). Where PG&E stood in complying with Code of Federal Regulations Title 10 Part 50.54(f) letter of the NRC was also discussed.

Both operators have until mid March 2015 to comply with the NRC's 50.54(f) letter requirements. A great deal of seismic reflection survey work done by PG&E contractors is still awaiting process and should be completed by March 2014.

Messrs. Mike Gardner, Dick McCarthy, and Casey Weaver (from the California Energy Commission), and I met Ms. McAndrews at SONGS on August 15th for a briefing and a site tour. We did not go into the radioactive parts of the site but did see the containment vessels for reactors two and three as well as the control room for reactor 2. The on-site Independent Spent Fuel Installations and the vessel containing the reactor for Unit 1 was also observed. The briefing material mainly went over in detail what Ms. McAndrews said at the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at the CPUC.

**Recommendation:** This is an informational item only. Commissioners are invited to ask questions.