

Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce

Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, Chair

California Legislature

March 19, 2015

The Honorable Michael Picker, President
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco CA 94102

RE: San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Internal And External Emails

Dear President Picker:

On behalf of the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee, I want to thank you for your candid testimony before the committee on March 16. Moreover, I want to commend you for committing to reform the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), increase transparency, and restore the public's trust.

With regard to repairing the damage to the commission's integrity in the eyes of ratepayers, I want to follow up on several items discussed in the March 16 committee hearing. Specifically, in regard to the settlement on the decommissioning of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), I believe it is imperative to investigate and scrutinize the entire settlement process in order to ensure that the settlement process was legitimate and uncorrupted.

Given your testimony to the committee that you had qualms about voting for the settlement and that you based your vote on what you believed to be a legitimate record, I believe it is your duty as president of the commission to shine a bright light on the process and fully investigate all aspects of the process, particularly after recent revelations that suggest the outline of the settlement may have been agreed to in principle in a secret meeting between Southern California Edison and then-President Michael Peevey several months before the public settlement proceeding actually commenced.

As you know, the Public Utilities Code empowers the commission to compel a regulated utility to produce any document that the commission believes is material to the regulating of the utility. This authority was recently exercised by the commission in regard to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The CPUC should utilize this authority and compel the Edison Company and Southern California Edison to turn over to the commission all internal and external emails relative to the SONGS, the investigation of the steam generators at SONGS, and the potential settlement or eventual settlement of the SONGS decommissioning with the CPUC.

Letter to CPUC President Michael Picker
March 19, 2015

Moreover, once the commission is in control of these documents I request that the commission provide them to the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee without delay.

President Picker, it is my solemn belief that your efforts to reform the commission and restore the public's trust cannot be completed until the dark clouds of the SONGS settlement and the specter of process manipulation by your predecessor are fully and completely removed. Anything short of total transparency will be viewed by public, this committee, and history as a complete failure to meet the duties of the commission.

We may call you back for another public hearing to give additional testimony.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this most vital matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Rendon', with a large, stylized 'R' and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ANTHONY RENDON, Chair
Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce