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Dear Community Engagement Panel Members:

I write to share an update regarding Southern California Edison's (SCE) plans to return to the Navy about 130 acres of land that SCE leases for San Onofre support functions. You may have seen recent sensational and inaccurate reports by a San Diego television station (NBC Channel 7) regarding our discussions with the Navy to vacate the property known as the Mesa, and I want to address several gross inaccuracies.

Most importantly, I wish to emphasize that there is no radiological contamination on the Mesa property, as the TV station's September 18 news account implied; all Mesa survey readings are normal background radiation levels. It is correct that San Onofre did have instances in the 1980s of low-level surface contamination on tools that were inappropriately taken to the Mesa. Those issues were addressed long ago and corrective actions were implemented to prevent any reoccurrence.

In addition, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reviewed our corrective actions related to the historic events and found the actions acceptable. That includes issues noted in the TV station's second report on September 26 regarding low-level contamination cited in a 1981 NRC inspection report. The news account fails to point out that the NRC identified **no items of noncompliance** – all radiation levels addressed in that inspection report were below federal limits.

As many of you know, nuclear plant operators are trained to manage radiation and radioactive material. Current federal regulations allow for each employee to receive up to 5,000 millirem of radiation per year. (On average, Americans receive about 620 millirem per year, of which half comes from naturally occurring background sources). Following are several examples of the inaccuracies in the TV station's report:

- Radiation levels measured at a security escort trailer were a fraction of the federal limits and posed no risk to workers, as the TV station claimed.
- Radiation readings near the San Onofre seawall on the beach were a fraction of federal public limits.
- The TV station misunderstood the NRC inspection report which concerned a tank that held steam generator maintenance debris -- not a removed steam generator. These readings, taken inside the plant where we expect to find radiation, were 1 millirem/hour, far below federal limits.

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With regard to the Mesa, SCE, with the concurrence of the Navy, hired an environmental assessment company to determine if any chemical, hazardous or radiological remediation was needed before SCE returns the property to the Navy. Such reports are normally prepared prior to the transfer of industrial property from one party to another. The preliminary assessment of Mesa parcels 5 and 7, completed in May 2015, did not identify any environmental conditions that would prevent unrestricted release of the property. Any final decision regarding transfer of the property is subject to the Navy's review and approval.

This assessment of parcels 5 and 7 found that leaks or releases of petroleum products occurred on the Mesa site, but that all remedial actions to protect human health and the environment had been taken. This preliminary Environmental Condition of Property Report was prepared in May 2015 by SCE and Irvine-based Arcadis U.S. Inc., and will be reviewed by the Navy.

We continue to work with the Navy to finalize the environmental assessment of Mesa parcel 6 and determine the appropriate steps to clean up non-radioactive issues on that parcel.

Our discussions with the Navy the past 18 months have been properly held in private, as would be customary with any landlord and tenant discussion. However, we have sought to be transparent, and have shared with the CEP several status reports regarding those discussions. I will provide another update on this topic at the CEP meeting on November 5.

I look forward to our next meeting and welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

