In January, a steam generator tube at the San Onofre Unit 3 reactor burst, releasing radioactivity and resulting in an emergency shutdown. It was subsequently revealed that hundreds of tubes in the new steam generators in both Unit 2 and 3 had been damaged, after only a year or two of operation. Both reactors have been shut down all year, but the plant operator, Southern California Edison, has requested permission from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to restart the crippled Unit 2, without repairing or replacing the defective steam generators.

Bridge the Gap has been deeply involved in the controversy all year, performing studies, briefing reporters and public officials, and pushing for an adjudicatory hearing to resolve the safety questions before a restart decision is made.

Eight and a half million people in southern California live within fifty miles of the troubled plant. Steam generators are critical safety features, essential for cooling the reactor core and preventing a meltdown, while providing a direct pathway to the environment for release of radioactivity if they fail.

Edison installed new steam generators at a cost to the ratepayers of $670 million. To avoid the prospect of a hearing on the safety of the new devices, Edison claimed they were making a “like for like” replacement exempt from a license amendment, despite elsewhere boasting of the numerous changes they had made in the design. That attempt at short-cut resulted in installing new steam generators that are tearing themselves up, showing tube wear in 1-2 years that most reactors don’t see in decades.

Edison admits that the defective steam generators need to be repaired or replaced, but nonetheless has proposed restarting Unit 2 without being fixed and run at 70% power for five months to see what happens. It is an experiment with much of southern California as guinea pigs.

Adding insult to injury, trying once again to avoid an evidentiary hearing on the safety questions, Edison insists it be able to undertake this experiment without getting a license amendment. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has recently established an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to rule on whether a license amendment and adjudicatory hearing opportunity are required.

CBG is playing a key role.

**Restart Crippled San Onofre?**

Committee to Bridge the Gap Playing Key Role in Battle

by CBG President Dan Hirsch

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We examined those claims and CBG REPORT Submitted to Congress the unit 3, despite having the same to reviewing it and meeting with Committee staff to address its findings. They each agreed. San Onofre reactor, placed it into the record of the hearing, and asked each Commissioner to commit there are four hundred times 2 3 requested permission to restart and 1800 in Unit 3. and Unit 2 has 1,595 tubes with wear, Unit 3 has 1,806. Between San Onofre Units 2 and 3 Unit 2 Unit 3

500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500 3,000 3,500 4,000 4,500 5,000 0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500 3,000 3,500 4,000 4,500 5,000 Unit 2 Unit 3 Steam Generator Tube Damage Is Not Dramatically Different Between San Onofre Units 2 and 3 WORN TUBES not be said to be acceptable for restart, any more than Unit 3. Unit 2 has hundreds of times more bad tubes and a thousand times more indications of wear on those tubes than the typical reactor in the country with a new steam generator, and nearly five times as many plugged tubes as the rest of the replacement steam generators, over a comparable operating period, in the country combined. Restarting either San Onofre reactor with crippled steam generators that have not been repaired or replaced would be a questionable undertaking at best.”

The operator of the troubled San Onofre nuclear plant has not been the typical figure nationally is: 400 200 0

not just normal wear due to settling in” purportedly experienced with similar replacement steam generators. They are far far outside the norm of national experience. And Unit 2 can-...