



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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ASLB TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENT MARCH 22 IN ROCKVILLE, MD, ON PETITION CHALLENGING SAN ONOFRE OVERSIGHT

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) will hear oral argument March 22 on a request for a hearing on the NRC's Confirmatory Action Letter regarding the San Onofre nuclear power plant in California. The ASLB is a three-member board of administrative judges independent of the NRC staff that conducts adjudicatory hearings on major agency licensing actions.

Friends of the Earth filed a petition with the agency's five Commissioners in June 2012, requesting a hearing on the Confirmatory Action Letter, which lays out several steps San Onofre must take to address excess steam generator wear before the NRC can consider allowing the plant to restart. In November 2012, the Commissioners issued an order that [directed](#) the ASLB to consider the question of whether the Confirmatory Action Letter triggers the opportunity for a hearing, and if so whether Friends of the Earth has met the legal requirements to participate in the hearing.

The oral argument will start at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 22, in the ASLB Hearing Facility, on the third floor of the NRC's Two White Flint building at 11555 Rockville Pike in Rockville. Only lawyers for Friends of the Earth, the NRC staff, and Southern California Edison will be allowed to participate. The session will break for lunch and reconvene in the afternoon, if necessary. If the parties must discuss proprietary information, the session will be closed to the public for that portion of the argument.

The non-proprietary session of the argument will be [webcast](#) and public and media are welcome to attend, but signs, banners, posters, or other displays will not be permitted in the room. Those planning to attend should allow enough time for security screening before the session's scheduled start time.

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