

## **San Onofre Decommissioning Community Engagement Panel**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, March 23, 2023, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. PDT via Microsoft Teams and in-person at the  
Laguna Hills Community Center, Laguna Hills, California  
Meeting Minutes

#### **1) Community Engagement Panel (CEP) member attendance:**

- a) Present: Dr. David Victor (CEP Chairman/University of California, San Diego), Dan Stetson (CEP Vice Chairman/Trustee-Executive Director, Nicholas Endowment), Martha McNicholas (CEP Secretary), Rob Howard (City of Oceanside Representative), Hon. Jim Desmond, (San Diego County Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> District), Michelle Anderson (Orange County Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management Director), Captain Mel Vernon (San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians), Sam Jammal (Camp Pendleton, Community Plans and Liaison Officer), Scott Kibbey (California State Parks, South Sector Superintendent), Marni Magda (Sierra Club), Hon. Michael Villar (Dana Point City Council), Mike Balsamo (Sr. VP, Government Relations Rancho Mission Viejo and South Orange County Economic Coalition Board Member), Alyssa Napuri (alternate for Hon. Katrina Foley, Orange County Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> District), Hon. Victor Cabral, (San Clemente City Council), and Hon. Mark Enmeier (alternate for Victor Cabral, (San Clemente City Council)
- b) Absent: Valentine "Val" Macedo (Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 89), Ted Quinn (American Nuclear Society), Garry Brown (Orange County Coastkeeper), and Hon. John Taylor (San Juan Capistrano City Council)
- c) Southern California Edison (SCE) Representatives: Doug Bauder (Chief Nuclear Officer and Vice President of Decommissioning), Vince Bilovsky (Director, Decommissioning Project) and Ron Pontes (General Manager, Environmental, Waste and Radiation Protection)
- d) Guest Speaker: Hon. Jim Desmond, (San Diego County Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> District and Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition Co-Chair)

#### **2) Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams convened by Chairman Victor at 5:30 p.m.**

***NOTE: VIDEO OF THIS MEETING, SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS, AND A TRANSCRIPT ARE AVAILABLE [HERE](#); THIS DOCUMENT PROVIDES A SUMMARY***

- 3) Opening Comments:** Chairman David Victor welcomed panel members, meeting participants, and the public to the first quarter hybrid meeting, which allowed participants to attend in person or online. He reviewed the agenda topics, introduced speakers, and explained that Vice Chair Dan Stetson, would be sharing chairman duties as Dan was attending in-person and David was online. Stetson thanked departing CEP members for their service and welcomed new members to the panel.

Victor provided an update on the recent spent fuel policy working group meeting that he co-chaired along with Dan Stetson on March 20. The meeting was the first of its kind and designed to organize and collaborate with people from nuclear plant community advisory panel members, utilities, and other organizations on spent fuel policies. The outcome will be a chairman's summary of principles that can be turned into legislation and talking points for communities to use when speaking to members of Congress, both in Washington and at home.

- 4) Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition Update:** Supervisor Jim Desmond (San Diego County, District 5) and [Spent Fuel Solutions](#) coalition Co-Chair, welcomed new coalition Co-Chair Supervisor Katrina Foley (Orange County, District 5) and discussed the new name for the coalition and community organizing efforts around spent fuel. He also provided a recap on the March 23 [webinar](#) he attended on

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international best practices for deep geologic repositories for spent fuel. Panelists represented the Canadian, Finnish, and Swedish spent fuel programs. He explained that here in the US, the Department of Energy increased its funding opportunity to \$26 million with awards expected later this spring. The funding will provide communities with the resources to explore consent-based siting, spent fuel management, and interim storage siting considerations. He also informed the panel that Representative Mike Levin has a new co-chair of his Spent Nuclear Fuel Solutions Caucus, Representative Chuck Fleischmann of Tennessee. The spent fuel caucus continues to play an important role and discussions on spent nuclear fuel at the federal level.

- 5) **SONGS Big Picture:** Doug Bauder provided a high-level overview of the decommissioning project beginning with the importance of the decommissioning principles: safety, stewardship, and engagement. Bauder discussed the return to in-person or hybrid meetings and was honored to have CEP members and the public in attendance. He urged panel members and the public to check out the San Onofre Decommissioning webpage at [www.songscommunity.com](http://www.songscommunity.com) and other resources for staying informed about the dismantlement of the plant, including where to sign up for public tours. Bauder explained the Nuclear Decommissioning Cost Triennial proceedings which is a three-year process and validates the adequacy of the trust for San Onofre decommissioning and ends with a decision that is certified by a full vote of the California Public Utilities Commission. He reviewed the three major work streams occurring at the plant: dismantling above ground structures, safely managing the spent fuel on site, and advocating for offsite storage and disposal.
- 6) **Dismantlement Update:** Vince Bilovsky, SONGS Decommissioning Director, provided an overview of the work activities over the last year and the work planned for the year ahead. Bilovsky explained that the current phase of dismantlement is halfway done and on track for completion in late 2028. He provided photographs as he discussed reactor vessel internal segmentation in Units 2 and 3 containment buildings which will continue throughout the summer. Once complete work will begin removing the reactor vessels and other large components within the containment domes. Decontamination and isolations of energized systems continues in preparation for demolition of buildings which is planned for the later in the year. Removal of the spent fuel racks which contained the spent fuel before being transferred to the dry cask storage is also underway. Bilovsky provided a video of the Unit 3 gantry crane as it was lowered safely to the ground for dismantlement before turbine building demolition could begin. Final status surveys for the intake structure will soon be complete and the area will be backfilled with concrete. Vince reviewed the process for packaging of the Greater than Class C (GTCC) waste and transfers to the independent spent fuel storage installation. The GTCC project is expected to be complete by late summer. Waste shipments also continue with over 500 railcar shipments completed in the first half of the year.
- 7) **Environmental Stewardship:** Ron Pontes, SONGS Environmental General Manager, provided an overview of the programs in place to protect the environment around the site. He discussed the dedicated staff responsible for the programs, and the environmental awareness training provided to all employees. Pontes provided an update on the recent wastewater releases from the site, including some that exceeded environmental standards, and the detailed steps taken to restore

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compliance and prevent reoccurrence. He reviewed the process used to clean up and release wastewater, which is within regulatory limits established by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. SCE provides 48-hour [advance notice of releases](#) through the SONGS website. Pontes also discussed the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system permit which is up for renewal by the San Diego Regional Water Control Board. The public meeting for review and approval is scheduled for April 12, 2023.

Pontes reviewed the recent changes to the footprint around the plant site that are within SCE's control, including the "exclusion area boundary" and "controlled area boundary." Pontes explained how the security profile at the plant remains unchanged and with all the spent fuel in passive dry cask storage, the number of "emergency action levels" were reduced from 82 to three, with zero resulting in radiological material leaving the site boundary.

#### **8) Chairman David Victor offered key takeaways summarized here:**

- a) The CEP received an update on community organizing efforts around spent fuel from San Diego County Supervisor and Spent Fuel Solutions coalition Co-Chair Jim Desmond. New coalition Co-Chair and Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley was among the elected officials welcomed to the CEP following the fall 2022 election cycle. Supervisor Desmond provided a recap on a webinar held the morning of 23 March on international best practices for deep geologic repositories for spent fuel. Panelists represented the Canadian, Finnish, and Swedish spent fuel programs. Here in the US, the Department of Energy increased its funding opportunity to \$26 million with awards expected later this spring. Representative Mike Levin has a new co-chair of his Spent Nuclear Fuel Solutions Caucus, Representative Chuck Fleischmann of Tennessee.
- b) SONGS Decommissioning Director Vince Bilovsky provided an update on dismantlement work underway at SONGS. The process for cutting up and packaging Greater Than Class C waste is slated for completion in late summer. Bilovsky explained that, more broadly, the current phase of dismantlement is halfway done and on track for completion in late 2028.
- c) Ron Pontes, SONGS Environmental General Manager, reviewed data on recent wastewater releases from the site, including some that exceeded environmental standards. He detailed steps taken to restore compliance. He also provided a refresh on the process used to clean up and release wastewater, all within regulatory limits established by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. SCE provides 48-hour advance notice of releases through the SONGS website.
- d) Pontes also reviewed changes to the footprint around the plant site within SCE's control, including the "exclusion area boundary" and "controlled area boundary." Unchanged is the security profile at the plant. Pontes explained that with all spent fuel at SONGS in passive dry cask storage, the number of "emergency action levels" are down from 82 to three, with zero that result in radiological material leaving the site boundary.

#### **9) Additional information about SONGS activities:**

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- Watch [recordings](#) of SFS coalition webinars on various topics related to offsite storage and disposal of spent nuclear fuel.
- Learn more about upcoming [public workshops](#) hosted by the UC Santa Barbara Marine Science Institute to review the status of the Wheeler North Reef Mitigation Project and the San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project.
- Visit the SONGS [community engagement page](#) to stay up to date on the CEP, sign up for public walking tours, and request a speaker for your next civic group meeting.
- Review [reports](#) on the environmental compliance history for SONGS.

#### **10) Chairman Victor and Martha McNicholas facilitated the public comment period**

- a) Public comment was provided by the following individuals:
  - i) Cathy Iwane (Coalition for Nuclear Safety) - discussed having Paul Blanch speak at CEP
  - ii) Alice McNally (Coalition for Nuclear Safety) - San Diego Union Tribune article on David Victor
  - iii) Kalene Walker (resident) - new legislation for permanent repository or no new nuclear
  - iv) Gary Headrick (San Clemente Green) - short term and long-term goals, and trust
  - v) Nina Babiarz (Public Watchdogs) - CEP Charter and conflicts of interest
  - vi) Charles Langley (Public Watchdogs) - suggestions for the community engagement panel

#### **11) Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**