

Opening remarks, Roger Johnson, San Clemente

Good evening. I speak on behalf of hundreds of people who signed a petition two years ago requesting a special CEP meeting devoted to worst-case scenarios. People were disappointed with the 22 previous meetings which came across as Edison PR. . Many had their hopes up when SONGS closed, but then we learned that nearly 2000 tons of highly radioactive nuclear waste will remain right here for the indefinite future. We are now a nuclear waste dump for decades to come. 123 canisters will sit at sea level 108 feet from the ocean. Each canister has the potential to release more Cesium 137 than the entire Chernobyl catastrophe. Meanwhile, millions who live between Los Angeles and San Diego are terrified. So are the 100 million Americans who live within 50 miles of a NPP.

It took 6 years before Edison agreed to talk about terrorism. Although we are thankful that they finally responded, they repeatedly changed the name and thrust of this event in what seems like an effort to trivialize the dangers. Several days ago, an Edison PR did not even mention terrorism.

It's interesting that nuclear insiders finally admit that reactors and fuel pools are dangerous, but now they try to argue that dry cask storage is completely safe. I hope we will not hear any of this tonight. Some of the waste will remain lethal for millions of years.

The petitioners have also voiced concern that the chairman unilaterally decided a scenario should be narrowly defined to focus only on causes and ignore consequences. While there can be considerable speculation on exactly how canisters might fail, there should be little debate that serious consequences are possible and we should begin to prepare. We hope the speakers tonight will address the possibility that someday we have to deal with clouds of radioactive fallout.

With regard to terrorism, we know the 911 terrorists considered attacking a NPP. What might happen here with huge explosions coming from an Oklahoma City type truck bomb or an airplane crash?? We have 19 airports in the area and just last week there was a hi-jacking. An airbus can hold 85,000 gallons of high-octane fuel. What about bunker busting RPGs fired from half a mile away or missiles launched from cargo ships

over the horizon? We are aware of the Lora missile designed to be concealed in a standard cargo container. 11,000 containers pass by here every day. Imagine just 6 containers each with a pod of 4 missiles with 1200 lb warheads reaching the target in minutes. Is someone going to argue that dozens of direct hits by missiles would cause no serious damage?

We hope it will not take an accident to get serious about preparing the public for what might happen. We need more public education, not so much about procedures authorities will follow, but about what residents need to know and do. It's clear that we need a follow-up public meeting to address more fully the concerns of the petitioners.

We hope the meeting tonight will focus on the concerns of the people who live near a NPP, and not about the concerns of an industry worried about PR.

R. Johnson