Compilation of Email Communications
9-13-21 to 11-2-21

ANS Nuclear News Magazine Features Two Articles About SONGS and Representative Mike Levin

From: Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom
Sent: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 2:45 PM
To: David Victor; Dan Stetson; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Lisa Bartlett; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Chris Duncan; Rob Howard; Sam Jammal; Scott Kibbey; Marni Magda; Val Macedo; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael Villar; Laura Ferguson; Kristal Jabara; Mark Riddlebarger; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz; Tyler Diep
Cc: Manuel Camargo
Subject: ANS Nuclear News Magazine (Nov. 2021) Features Two Articles About SONGS and Representative Mike Levin

Dear CEP members and alternates,

I write to share two American Nuclear Society (ANS) Nuclear News articles featuring the SONGS strategic plan and coalition and Representative Mike Levin's spent fuel caucus. The link to the Nuclear News Magazine (Nov. 2021) issue is provided below.

Look for the following featured articles:
Decommissioning San Onofre – Page 48
Representative Mike Levin: The spent fuel caucus and SONGS - Page 54



Thank you,
Lorraine Sandstrom
Community Affairs and Relations, Senior Specialist
Community Engagement Panel (CEP) Management and Stakeholder Engagement (AWS Bldg. D-D23)
Southern California Edison, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS)

No attachment. Direct links within text.
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GAO Urges Congress to Tackle Nuclear Waste and NEI Report on DOE's Efforts to Restart the Federal Spent Fuel Management Program

From: Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 12:12 PM
To: David Victor; Dan Stetson; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Lisa Bartlett <Lisa.Bartlett@ocgov.com>; Garry Brown <garry@coastkeeper.org>; Jim Desmond; Chris Duncan; Rob Howard; Sam Jammal; Scott Kibbey; Marni Magda; Val Macedo; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael Villar; Laura Ferguson; Kristal Jabara; Mark Riddlebarger; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz; Tyler Diep
Cc: Doug Bauder; Manuel Camargo; Amy F Pressler; Tom Isaacs; Jackie Littler; Veronica Ferencz; Marisol Edrozo; Pauline Colvin; 'Nicole Perez
Subject: GAO Urges Congress to Tackle Nuclear Waste and NEI Report on DOE's Efforts to Restart the Federal Spent Fuel Management Program

Dear CEP Members and Alternates,

I write to share a recent news story from the OC Register regarding a recent report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) urging Congress to tackle the nuclear waste storage impasse. The GAO report also is attached.

Also attached for your awareness is a new backgrounder on spent fuel management from the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). The backgrounder references DOE's efforts to restart the federal spent fuel management program and it is consistent with our strategic plan as well as the Blue Ribbon Commission report. We are pleased to see NEI engaged on this issue. Interviewees included David Victor as well as experts who advised SCE on the Strategic Plan including Tom Isaacs, Allison Macfarlane, Tom Cotton, and Joe Hezir.

Feel free to share this material with others who have an interest in SONGS decommissioning and spent fuel management.

Thank you,
Lorraine Sandstrom
Community Affairs and Relations, Senior Specialist
Community Engagement Panel (CEP) Management and Stakeholder Engagement (AWS Bldg. D-D23)
Southern California Edison, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS)
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Compilation of Email Communications
9-13-21 to 11-2-21

Attachment 1 - GAO Urges Congress to Tackle Nuclear Waste Storage Impasse, 'The ghost of Yucca still stalks the policy debate and … there hasn't been enough sustained pressure to find solutions'
By Teri Sforza, Orange County Register, October 17, 2021

Attachment 2 - U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report - Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel Congressional Action Needed to Break Impasse and Develop a Permanent Disposal Solution, September 2021 (GAO-21-603)

Attachment 3 - Federal Used Fuel Management Program, Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) 2021 (Backgrounder document)
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Report on Spent Fuel Challenge from U.S. Government Accountability Office

From: Manuel Camargo
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 5:01 PM
To: David G. Victor; Daniel T. Stetson; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Lisa Bartlett; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Chris Duncan; Rob Howard; Sam Jammal; Scott Kibbey; Marni Magda; Val Macedo; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael Villar; Laura Ferguson; Kristal Jabara; Mark Riddlebarger; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz
Cc: Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom; Doug Bauder; John Dobken; James Peterson; Amy F Pressler; Liese Mosher
Subject: Report on Spent Fuel Challenge from U.S. Government Accountability Office

Hello CEP members,

The Government Accountability Office today released a report on solving the spent fuel challenge titled, "Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel: Congressional Action Needed to Break Impasse and Develop a Permanent Disposal Solution." You may review highlights and access the full report HERE.

Recommendations in the GAO report are consistent with SCE's Strategic Plan and the Blue Ribbon Commission report. Some of the interviewees for the report will be familiar to many of you, including:

- **David Victor**,
- **Tom Isaacs** who was chair of the Experts Team and remains independent advisor to SCE on spent fuel management,
- Former NRC Chairman **Allison Macfarlane** who also served on the Experts Team,
- **Tom Cotton** and **Joe Hezir** who served on the North Wind team that authored the Strategic Plan, and
- **Per Peterson** who served as a guest speaker at a 2015 CEP meeting.

Please feel free to share the report with others who have an interest in relocating SONGS spent fuel offsite.

Best regards,
Manuel
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Manuel C. Camargo Jr.
Principal Manager, Strategic Planning
SONGS Decommissioning
Southern California Edison
www.SONGScommunity.com

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Op-Ed in San Diego Union Tribune by David Victor and Val Macedo

From: Manuel Camargo
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 10:23 AM
To: David G. Victor; Daniel T. Stetson; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Lisa Bartlett; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Chris Duncan; Rob Howard; Sam Jammal; Scott Kibbey; Marni Magda; Val Macedo; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael Villar; Laura Ferguson; Kristal Jabara; Mark Riddlebarger; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz
Cc: Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom; Doug Bauder; John Dobken; James Peterson; Amy F Pressler
Subject: Op-Ed in SD Union-Tribune by David Victor and Val Macedo

Dear CEP Members,

Writing to share an opinion-editorial about addressing the spent fuel disposition challenge by David Victor and Val Macedo that ran in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* on the afternoon of Friday, Sept. 10. The piece, in part, highlights the important work that Supervisors Bartlett and Desmond are doing as co-chairs of the ASFSN coalition. The op-ed is available HERE and pasted below.

Feel free to share this op-ed with others in your networks who may have an interest in relocating the spent fuel from SONGS (and/or other sites) to a federally-licensed offsite facility.

Best regards,

Manuel

Opinion: To move nuclear waste from San Onofre, interim storage is needed

A bipartisan coalition will help find ways to move nuclear fuel from sites like the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station.

BY VALENTINE MACEDO,
DAVID G. VICTOR
SEP. 10, 2021 4:53 PM PT
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***Macedo** is a business manager/secretary-treasurer of Laborers International Union of North America Local 89 and lives in Vista. **Victor** is a professor of innovation, public policy and climate science at UC San Diego and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and lives in Solana Beach.*

The recent launch of a new coalition — Action for Spent Fuel Solutions Now — deserves a round of applause. The bipartisan coalition, if it gets traction, will help find practical ways to move nuclear fuel from sites like the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. The initial membership is drawn from across society, including labor, business and community organizations, and Native American and environmental leaders and involves Southern California Edison, which operated the plant. Now that SONGS is closed, nearly everyone wants the fuel to leave — an outcome that wouldn't just improve the environment and create jobs but would also free land to support the Navy's critical training mission at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, where this spent fuel now resides.

San Diego County must play a central role. It is encouraging to see that San Diego County Supervisor Jim Desmond is serving as co-chair of the coalition along with Orange County Supervisor Lisa Bartlett. The unanimous vote Aug. 17 by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors in support of the coalition is a powerful signal that communities want action.

We've been on the front lines of this issue for the last seven years as volunteer members of the San Onofre Community Engagement Panel. No issue commands more passionate debate than what to do with the plant's spent fuel. And at no time in history has the path to victory in moving the fuel been easier to see.

The problem with San Onofre's fuel is that the U.S. Department of Energy, which was scheduled to begin picking up spent fuel from nuclear plants nationwide in 1998 and delivering it for permanent storage in Nevada's Yucca Mountain, has failed to deliver. After the federal government spent $15 billion on the project, political support for it collapsed.

A new strategy, including what's called interim storage, is needed. Two private interim sites are already being lined up — places where fuel from San Onofre (and many other sites) can go until it moves to a final home. Making the interim option work requires a long-term plan as well for a permanent repository. None of this was envisioned back in the 1980s when the key federal waste law was first crafted. Making it a reality requires a change in law, and that means getting votes in Congress.

The good news is that elements of a coalition in Congress are now taking shape. Rep. Mike Levin, D-San Juan Capistrano, who convened a task force focused on SONGS two years ago, is building political support at the federal level for changes in federal law, including with a bipartisan Spent Nuclear Fuel Solutions Caucus formed with Rep. Rodney Davis, R-Illinois, where, like at San Onofre, communities face futures with retired nuclear reactors and the spent fuel stuck on site. Congressional support is building across San Diego and Orange Counties, including Reps. Michelle Steel, R-Seal Beach, Darrell Issa, R-Bonsall, Scott Peters, D-San Diego, and Sara Jacobs, D-San Diego. Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Sacramento, has reintroduced legislation in the House that would enable development of a federal interim storage site. U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-San Francisco, is a staunch supporter of similar ideas with draft legislation. U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm has made supportive comments, and Energy Department budget planning sees a future of interim storage as well.

All these encouraging federal signals need to become more frequent, stronger and better supported locally. That's why the new local coalition is so important — and why San Diego's voice is so essential. There are many voices yelling the wrong messages, such as activist groups running PR stunts aimed at pushing San Onofre to use technologies and handling methods for spent fuel that aren't best practice — outcomes that, if successful, would make it even harder to move the fuel from here.

A fresh analysis by a team of leading experts comes to the same conclusion: If we want to move the spent fuel then interim storage is essential. And without strong political support and smart strategy, that analysis also found that "Private storage facilities face challenges of public and host-state acceptance."

Doing what's right for this community is not about being pro-nuclear power or anti-nuclear. It's about practical realism. SONGS was retired years ago and is being dismantled. This is about the federal government delivering on its commitment to provide an offsite facility for spent nuclear fuel. Now's your chance to make your voice heard and to make sure San Diego's political heft is pushing for a solution.

Manuel C. Camargo Jr.
Principal Manager, Strategic Planning
SONGS Decommissioning
Southern California Edison
www.SONGScommunity.com

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