

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

### **REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, February 10, 2022 from Noon to 3:00 p.m. PST via Microsoft Teams

#### **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), Hon. Martha McNicholas (CEP Secretary/Trustee, Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees), Scott Kibbey (California State Parks, South Sector Superintendent), Garry Brown (Orange County Coastkeeper), Valentine “Val” Macedo (Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 89), Rob Howard (City of Oceanside Representative), Sam Jammal (Camp Pendleton, Community Plans and Liaison Officer), Michelle Anderson (Orange County Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management Interim Director), Mike Balsamo, (Sr. VP, Government Relations Rancho Mission Viejo and South Orange County Economic Coalition Board Member), Marni Magda (Sierra Club), Captain Mel Vernon (San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians), Ted Quinn (American Nuclear Society), Hon. John Taylor (San Juan Capistrano City Council), , Kristal Jabara (alternate for Hon. Jim Desmond, San Diego County Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> District), and Hon. Chris Duncan (San Clemente City Council)
- b) Absent: Hon. Lisa Bartlett, (Orange County Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> District), Tyler Diep (alternate for Lisa Bartlett, Orange County Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> District), Hon. Jim Desmond, (San Diego County Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> District), Hon. Michael Villar (Dana Point City Council), Hon. Michael Frost (Alternate for Michael Villar, Dana Point City Council)
- c) Southern California Edison (SCE) Representatives: Doug Bauder (Chief Nuclear Officer and Vice President of Decommissioning)
- d) Guests: Dr. Kimberly Petry (Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition for the U.S. Department of Energy), Christian Abueg (Policy Advisor and Administrative Manager for Lisa Bartlett, Orange County Supervisor and Action for Spent Fuel Solutions Now (ASFSN) Co-Chair, Kristal Jabara (Director of Community Affairs for Jim Desmond, San Diego Supervisor and ASFSN Co-Chair), John Kotek (Senior Vice President of Policy Development and Public Affairs for the Nuclear Energy Institute), and Tom Isaacs (Independent Strategic Advisor on Spent Fuel Management to SCE and volunteer Advisor to the ASFSN Coalition)

#### **2) Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams convened by Chairman Victor at 12:01 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 and meeting participants. He explained the meeting was scheduled earlier in the day for the convenience of guest speakers from the Department of Energy (DOE) in Washington D.C. Chairman Victor introduced the agenda topics and guest speakers. Adding that Dr. Kim Petry and her team would help everyone understand the DOE's request for information (RFI) on consent-based siting for a federal consolidated interim spent fuel storage facility which is central to moving the spent fuel away from San Onofre. He also welcomed Michael (Mike) Frost, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Dana Point as the newly appointed alternate for Michael Villar, CEP member and Dana Point City Council member.

Doug Bauder provided a brief overview of work at the plant including the importance of the decommissioning principles: safety, stewardship, and engagement. The three major workstreams at the plant continue to be dismantling above-ground structures, safely managing spent fuel on site, and advocating for offsite storage and disposal. Doug urged CEP panel members and meeting

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participants to check out the [www.songscommunity.com](http://www.songscommunity.com) website for decommissioning updates, time-lapse videos of dismantlement work, and nuclear facts. He also explained that his update would be kept brief so more time could be devoted to the DOE's presentation on the request for information, and that detailed decommissioning updates would be provided during future meetings.

- 4) **DOE RFI on consent-based siting for federal consolidated interim storage facilities:** Dr. Kimberly Petry, presented an overview of the request for information on consent-based siting for federal consolidated interim storage. She explained that the DOE is requesting feedback from local communities, tribal nations, and organizations who want to learn more about the process and emphasized the DOE's commitment to remove barriers from participation to ensure all communities that want to be involved have the opportunity. Dr. Petry shared the department's desire to make progress on resolving the back end of the fuel cycle with a near term storage facility and a long-term repository for the spent nuclear fuel. She also discussed the growing importance of nuclear energy as part of the solution for decarbonization.
- 5) **Local perspective:** Christian Abueg, policy advisor for Orange County Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, and Kristal Jabara, director of community affairs for San Diego Supervisor Jim Desmond, provided remarks on behalf of the ASFSN coalition. Both offered praise and support for the DOE's efforts and encouraged Dr. Petry to focus on the need for a long-term permanent repository and the prioritization for plants such as SONGS, when a site becomes available to ship the spent fuel to. The coalition also plans to provide a response to the DOE request for information.
- 6) **National perspective:** John Kotek, offered a national perspective focusing on his past experience at the DOE, efforts to pursue consent-based siting and the challenges they faced, as well as current work on behalf of the industry to site facilities. He also emphasized the importance for keeping equally focused on the transportation efforts and coordination, as these also involve opportunities for states, tribal nations, and others to provide input and takes time.
- 7) **International perspective:** Tom Isaacs, discussed the 2012 Blue Ribbon Commission report, what is happening now, and provided recommendations on ways people can work together based on his ongoing work in other countries. Tom reminded folks that consent-based siting was the number one recommendation from the Commission and an international best practice.
- 8) **Chairman David Victor offered key takeaways summarized here:**
  - a) With the federal government's recent restart of consent-based siting, the CEP received an update from the DOE on the landscape for offsite storage of spent nuclear fuel. Representatives of the ASFSN coalition offered a local perspective, John Kotek of the NEI provided a national viewpoint and spent fuel expert Tom Isaacs offered international insights.
  - b) The DOE is responsible for disposition of the nation's spent nuclear fuel. DOE's Dr. Kim Petry

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stated that federal interim storage allows for removal of spent fuel from reactor sites sooner than waiting for a deep geologic repository. DOE recently launched a process to hear from local communities, tribal nations, and organizations who want to learn about consent-based siting.

- c) Advocacy remains an important opportunity for communities neighboring San Onofre, and the coalition is well-positioned to serve as an organizing mechanism.
- d) The DOE's consent-based siting effort is an important listening process and comments are due by March 4. Later this year, it should help bring forward communities that want to learn more about what it means to be a host community for a spent fuel facility. That's progress.
- e) The renewed focus on the "back end of the fuel cycle" is owed in part to addressing climate change, and the need for clean power including but not limited to nuclear generation.
- f) Congressional action remains important, and one thing our local coalition can do is organize a list of key federal actions that would benefit us near SONGS and other plants. DOE has the authorization and funding for its initial work, but beyond a couple years will need more support.
- g) Other countries are ahead of the U.S. They are figuring out what consent means to their local communities. While there is no recipe book, we can learn from their efforts.
- h) The CEP should provide input to the DOE. The CEP leadership—David, Dan, and Martha—will draft and circulate comments to the full CEP membership for input.

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

- Respond to DOE's [RFI](#) on consent-based siting for federal consolidated interim storage.
- Read the [response](#) to an op-ed by an activist regarding tsunamis and spent fuel storage.
- Visit the SONGS [YouTube channel](#) to learn how SCE is protecting wildlife species and the latest time-lapse videos of dismantlement on the SONGS.
- Check out a new [railyard](#) to support offsite shipment of material that is nearing completion.
- Learn more about the new [coalition](#) formed to urge the federal government to provide an off-site facility for spent fuel and consider joining (for free).
- Read about dismantlement of the [turbine buildings](#) and the [intake structures](#).

#### **10) Chairman Victor, Vice Chairman Stetson, and Secretary McNicholas facilitated the public comment period**

- a) Public comment was provided by the following individuals:
  - i) Daryl Gale (local resident) – sea wall size, and hot cells
  - ii) Nina Babiarz (Public Watchdogs) – debris disposal and shipping routes by rail
  - iii) Kalene Walker (Orange County resident) – cannister integrity and safe storage

#### **9) Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.**