Community Engagement Panel Meeting
Department of Energy and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Spent Fuel Transportation Update and SONGS Decommissioning Update by San Onofre Decommissioning *Solutions*
Thursday, October 26, 2023, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. PDT via Microsoft Teams
Meeting Minutes

1) **Community Engagement Panel (CEP) member attendance:**
   a) Present: Dan Stetson (CEP Chairman/Trustee-Executive Director, Nicholas Endowment), Hon. Victor Cabral, (CEP Vice Chairman/San Clemente City Council), Martha McNicholas (CEP Secretary), Ted Quinn (American Nuclear Society), Michelle Anderson (Orange County Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management Director), Hon. Jim Desmond, (San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District), Hon. Katrina Foley, (Orange County Supervisor, 5th District), Hon. John Taylor (San Juan Capistrano City Council), Captain Mel Vernon (San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians), Scott Kibbey (California State Parks, South Sector Superintendent), Marni Magda (Sierra Club), Mike Balsamo (Sr. VP, Government Relations Rancho Mission Viejo and South Orange County Economic Coalition Board Member), Garry Brown (Orange County Coastkeeper), and Kristal Jabara (alternate for Hon. Jim Desmond, San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District)
   b) Absent: Sam Jammal (Camp Pendleton, Community Plans and Liaison Officer), Rob Howard (City of Oceanside Representative), Valentine "Val" Macedo (Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 89), and Hon. Michael Villar (Dana Point City Council)
   c) Guest Speakers: Erica Bickford (Director, Office of Integrated Waste Management, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)) and Steven Maheras (Nuclear Engineer, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL))
   d) Southern California Edison (SCE) Representatives: Doug Bauder (former Chief Nuclear Officer (CNO) and Vice President (VP) of Decommissioning), Fred Bailly (CNO and VP of Decommissioning), Vince Bilovsky (Director, Decommissioning Project), and Rich Kalman (Executive Sponsor, SONGS Decommissioning Solutions)

2) **Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams convened by Chairman Stetson at 2:00 p.m.**

   NOTE: VIDEO OF THIS MEETING, SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS, AND A TRANSCRIPT ARE AVAILABLE HERE; THIS DOCUMENT PROVIDES A SUMMARY

3) **Opening Comments:** Stetson welcomed panel members and meeting participants to the fourth quarter meeting. He covered the agenda topics and explained that the meeting time was adjusted to accommodate the guest speakers from the DOE who were joining the meeting online from Washington, D.C., and the east coast time zone. Stetson informed panel members and the public that the meeting would include two 30-minute public comment periods; (1) for questions related to the DOE presentation and (2) for general questions, to equal the one-hour public comment period.

   Stetson thanked former SCE CNO and VP of Decommissioning, Doug Bauder for his dedication to the CEP meetings. Bauder is retiring on October 31. Stetson added that he appreciated Bauder's transparency and how he welcomed the challenges and questions from the panel and the public. Stetson welcomed SCE CNO and VP, Frederic Bailly, who shared his commitment to ensure the CEP panel members and the community are updated on the SONGS decommissioning project. Stetson also provided the diverse list of CEP panel members and expressed his gratitude for their support and looked forward to working with them as Chairman.

4) **CEP General Community Update:** Stetson discussed the Paul Blanch and David Lochbaum engineer-to-engineer tour and meeting at the SONGS plant on August 17. The meeting provided an

opportunity to discuss the SONGS Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) beyond design basis flooding analysis. SCE engineers, Jerry Stephenson, Randal Granaas and Bob Yale provided a tour of the spent fuel storage facility and engaged in an engineer-to-engineer discussion. SCE also provided responses to a list of follow-up questions including a 1972 study by a Dr. Wilson that helped establish the design basis for a flood or tsunami at SONGS and can be found on the meeting webpage. Both Paul Blanch and David Lochbaum expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to meet.

Stetson provided an update on the University of California, Irvine, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution analyses of ocean water samples taken during releases of cleaned up wastewater from SONGS. Both UCI and Woods Hole found that Cesium-137 levels are essentially at background levels and far below the Environmental Protection Agency's standards for drinking water, so quite safe. Dr. Sarah Finkeldei of UCI found that, "Gamma spectroscopy measurements do not reveal increased levels of radionuclides due to the wastewater release." The fact that SONGS is not affecting the marine environment also aligns with the NRC-mandated Radiological Effluent Monitoring Program that SCE has had in place for decades.

5) **Spent Fuel Solutions coalition update:** Supervisor Foley provided an update on coalition activities, included the most recent webinar that took place on September 15. The webinar assembled a panel of national experts and focused on shifting influences and evolving narrative in the spent fuel space and included Tom Isaacs (Independent Strategic Advisor to SCE for Nuclear Waste Management), Katrina McMurrian (Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition), and Rod McCullum (Nuclear Energy Institute). The panel provided insight on topics such as reprocessing and recycling, as well as the history of the U.S. spent fuel management program and current efforts related to consolidated interim storage. Supervisor Foley also discussed her recent opinion-editorial in the Los Angeles Times newspaper and details on the upcoming DOE webinar on November 2 which will include a public dialogue with the 13 consortia that are sharing $26 million in grants to stimulate dialogue on consent-based siting and support capacity building.

6) **SONGS Big Picture:** Bailly provided an overview of the decommissioning project beginning with the importance of the decommissioning principles: safety, stewardship, and engagement. 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. He urged panel members and guests to check out the San Onofre decommissioning webpage at www.songscommunity.com and other resources for staying informed about the dismantlement of the plant, including where to sign up for public tours.

7) **Atlas and Fortis Railcar Project Update:** Bickford provided an overview of the work being performed by the DOE Office of Integrated Waste Management. The DOE is planning an integrated waste management system to transport, store, and dispose of our nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. DOE envisions an integrated waste management system that contains the

transportation infrastructure necessary to move spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste primarily by rail, and by road and barge as needed. The presentation topics included why rail is the most suitable mode for large-scale transport of spent nuclear fuel in the U.S., the Association of American Railroad Standard S-2043, and the Atlas and Fortis railcar project status to date and the path forward.

Maheras provided an overview of the integrated security and safety monitoring system and the strong safety record for spent fuel transportation. When shipments take place, the DOE will work carefully with public safety officials along pre-approved routes to ensure the safety of all affected communities. During transportation, radioactive material is safely contained in large, sealed containers certified by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The robust containers protect people and the environment during routine operations, as well as in the unlikely case of a severe transportation accident.

8) **Dismantlement Update:** Bilovsky provided an overview of the dismantlement project schedule and key activities and explained that the current phase of dismantlement is more than halfway done and on track for completion in late 2028.

9) **SONGS Decommissioning Update by SONGS Decommissioning Solutions:** Kalman provided an overview of the dismantlement project to date. He shared management's commitment to safety following a recent employee injury. Kalman covered the current building demolition and dismantlement progress throughout the site, including work outside and inside the containment domes. He explained the focus areas for the fourth quarter which included safety, radiological protection, environmental programs, greater than class C waste packaging and transfers, and ongoing waste shipments. Kalman also provided updates on critical path projects such as reactor vessel internal segmentation, large component removals and shipments, and reactor vessel segmentation.

10) **Chairman Dan Stetson offered key takeaways summarized here:**
    a) A virtual meeting of the Community Engagement Panel included updates on the development of railcars to support the eventual transportation of spent nuclear from sites like SONGS, the latest work of the Spent Fuel Solutions coalition, and the status of decommissioning effort.
    b) The Department of Energy is well along in planning for spent fuel transportation, largely by rail but also by road and barge as needed. Special railcars are designed to reduce the risk of derailment and DOE is working on two models to carry different sized loads—a larger Atlas and smaller Fortis railcar. Atlas railcar testing is complete, with approval by the Association of American Railroads anticipated in the next few months, well ahead of the most optimistic timeframe for offsite federal facilities for spent fuel storage to come available.
    c) Work on an integrated rail security and safety monitoring system is well underway to help detect equipment malfunctions before failure.
    d) Spent fuel canisters and packages are designed to assure the containment of all contents in severe accident conditions including a drop, fire, and immersion in water.

e) Spent Fuel Solutions coalition co-chairs/CEP members/Supervisors Katrina Foley of Orange County and Jim Desmond of San Diego County provided updates on important work to advocate for offsite storage and disposal of spent fuel. SFS is executing a strategy to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act in ways that would provide for a more durable and integrated spent fuel management program that includes both near-term storage and permanent disposal. Educational webinars are available for those interested in learning more about solutions for offsite storage and disposal of spent fuel, and recordings are available online.

f) The decommissioning general contractor for SONGS is 63 percent finished with the current phase of dismantlement, with full completion expected by the end of 2028.

g) The meeting was the first with Dan Stetson as CEP Chairman and San Clemente City Councilmember Victor Cabral as Vice Chairman. Martha McNicholas continues as Secretary. The meeting also was Fred Bailly's first as Chief Nuclear Officer for SONGS.

11) Additional information about SONGS activities:

- Watch a recent SFS webinar on shifting influences and the evolving narrative around the US spent fuel management program.
- The video for the Nov. 2 DOE Consent-Based Siting Consortia webinar is available on the DOE Consent-Based Siting webpage.
- Register for a tour of SONGS, stay up to date on the CEP, and/or book a speaker for a civic group meeting using the SONGS community engagement page.

12) Victor Cabral, and Martha McNicholas facilitated the public comment period

a) The following individuals participated in the public comment period:
   i) Nina Babiarz (Public Watchdogs) - DOE transportation and 3rd party recommendations
   ii) Gary Headrick (San Clemente Green) - timeline to move spent fuel canisters, sampling
   iii) Katie Day (Surfrider Foundation) - ocean water sampling results

13) Meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.