

**SONGS Decommissioning Community Engagement Panel /Spent Fuel Solutions Joint Meeting
Department of Energy Funding to Support Community Engagement on Consent-Based Siting
of Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities**

Thursday, June 15, 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), Michelle Anderson (Orange County Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management Director), Captain Mel Vernon (San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians), 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), Hon. Katrina Foley, (Orange County Supervisor, 5th District), Hon. Victor Cabral, (San Clemente City Council), Garry Brown (Orange County Coastkeeper), Valentine "Val" Macedo (Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 89), and Kristal Jabara (alternate for Hon. Jim Desmond, San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District).
- b) Absent: Ted Quinn (American Nuclear Society), Hon. John Taylor (San Juan Capistrano City Council), Hon. Jim Desmond, (San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District), Sam Jammal (Camp Pendleton, Community Plans and Liaison Officer)
- c) Southern California Edison (SCE) Representatives: Doug Bauder (Chief Nuclear Officer and Vice President of Decommissioning), Vince Bilovsky (Director, Decommissioning Project)
- d) Guest Speakers: Natalia Saraeva, (Team Lead for Consent-Based Siting, Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)) and Vincent Lalenti, (Social Scientist, DOE)

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:** Victor welcomed panel members and meeting participants to the second quarter hybrid meeting. He reviewed the agenda topics, introduced speakers, and provided opening comments. Victor defined the roles of the CEP, the Spent Fuel Policy Working Group, and the Spent Fuel Solutions (SFS) coalition: CEP is focused on decommissioning and has an interest in spent fuel, the working group collaborated on spent fuel policy principles, and the SFS coalition works on advocacy. He discussed the Nuclear Energy Institute Used Fuel Conference on April 25, where he shared the SONGS perspective and efforts to get organized during the opening plenary session. He also provided an update on the spent fuel working group and the NRC license approval for the Holtec consolidated interim storage facility in New Mexico.

Stetson discussed the SONGS tour with Senator Josh Newman (CA 29th District) on April 28.

- 4) Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition Update:** Foley, [Spent Fuel Solutions](#) coalition co-chair, discussed coalition and community organizing efforts around spent fuel and the March 23 [webinar](#) on international best practices for deep geologic repositories for spent fuel, which included panelists who represented the Canadian, Finnish, and Swedish spent fuel programs.

**SONGS Decommissioning Community Engagement Panel /Spent Fuel Solutions Joint Meeting
Department of Energy Funding to Support Community Engagement on Consent-Based Siting
of Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities**

Thursday, June 15, 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

Stetson and Foley shared information about the June 9 news conference at SONGS with Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm and Representative Mike Levin (D-CA). Secretary Granholm announced the 13 awardees that will receive a portion of the \$26 million as a next step in the DOE's consent-based siting process for consolidated interim storage facilities for spent nuclear fuel. Recipients of awards were groups of university, nonprofit, and private sector partners interested in collaborating on the DOE's community-centered approach to storing spent nuclear fuel.

- 5) **Consent Based Siting for Federal Consolidated Interim Storage:** DOE's Saraeva provided a presentation on consent-based siting for federal consolidated interim storage. She explained that nuclear energy was essential to tackling climate change and reaching ambitious goals to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by the end of the decade. She provided an overview of the DOE's role in integrated waste management, federal interim storage plans, and the consent-based siting approach that focuses on the needs and concerns of people, communities, and public feedback. She also covered the three stages of the consent-based siting process and answered questions from CEP members and the general public.
- 6) **CEP Member Consultation Meeting:** Victor provided a report out on the CEP Member Consultation meeting on May 31. During the meeting, he provided an update on the Spent Fuel Policy Working Group's efforts to unite communities and draft principles to advocate for federal policy changes to support permanent disposal and consolidated interim storage facilities. Stetson shared his efforts to support Surfrider with ocean water sampling before and after SONGS waste-water discharges. SCE provided updates on SONGS safety, decommissioning 2023 achievements, and major dismantlement work planned for the balance of 2023. Foley, SFS co-chair, provided an update on coalition advocacy efforts. CEP members provided feedback and discussed 2023/2024 agenda topics.
- 7) **SONGS Big Picture:** 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 Orange County Register article regarding recent NRC findings at SONGS, adding that SCE agrees with the NRC's conclusions in the report, and it was important to note that SONGS and the surrounding community remain safe. He explained that recent violations were administrative in nature and SCE has worked with the NRC to address the two items, one regarding an adjustment to a welding procedure and the other a matter that is being addressed across the industry regarding transportation activities on a dry cask storage facility during inclement weather, e.g., a tornado occurs while a spent fuel canister lid is off/removed. NRC has conducted three inspections at SONGS this year on various programs and had no findings. Bauder welcomed Saraeva and expressed appreciation for her team's work on consolidated interim storage, which is viewed as the most reliable near-term solution for clearing the site of spent fuel so the site restoration process can be completed. Until then, SCE remains responsible for the safe onsite storage of spent fuel. Bauder also 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, adding that SCE and SDS have experts dedicated to dismantlement,

**SONGS Decommissioning Community Engagement Panel /Spent Fuel Solutions Joint Meeting
Department of Energy Funding to Support Community Engagement on Consent-Based Siting
of Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities**

Thursday, June 15, 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

waste packaging and transportation, and protecting the environment during dismantlement work. He urged panel members and the public 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.

- 8) Dismantlement Update:** Bilovsky provided an overview of the work activities planned for the year ahead. Bilovsky covered the dismantlement project schedule and explained that the current phase of dismantlement is halfway done and on track for completion in late 2028. He provided a demolition status map and an aerial view of the site in 2017 and 2023. Bilovsky provided updates on the final stages of reactor vessel internal segmentation in the Units 2 and 3 containment buildings, which will continue throughout the summer. When segmentation is complete, work will begin removing the reactor vessels and other large components within the containment domes. The Greater Than Class C (GTCC) project is 75% complete in Unit 3. Bilovsky reviewed the process for transferring GTCC canisters to the independent spent fuel storage installation. The GTCC project is expected to be complete by late summer. Unit 2 spent fuel rack removal is complete and the Unit 3 rack removal is underway. Final status surveys for the intake structure were completed and the structure is being backfilled with low-density concrete. Unit 3 turbine building demolition is nearing completion and waste shipments continue to transfer waste offsite.
- 9) Chairman David Victor offered key takeaways summarized here:**
- a) The SONGS CEP and SFS coalition hosted a joint meeting focused on the DOE's consent-based siting initiative for consolidated interim storage (CIS) facilities for spent nuclear fuel. Saraeva, team lead for the initiative, provided an overview of the three-stage plan to deliver one or more operational federal CIS facilities in 10 to 15 years. Saraeva highlighted the current first stage through which \$26 million was awarded to 13 consortia to facilitate community engagement on consent-based siting and capacity building.
 - b) Our communities are getting organized. A working group on spent fuel policy is comprised of stakeholders from across the country who have collaborated on policy principles, essentially how to structure an integrated and durable spent fuel management program in the US. The Spent Fuel Solutions coalition has grown to 250+ groups and individuals and is taking the lead on advocating for policy changes. The CEP has an ongoing interest in spent fuel management while focusing on SONGS decommissioning.
 - c) Several organizations are engaged locally, including Surfrider Foundation, San Clemente Green, Samuel Lawrence Foundation, and Orange County Coastkeeper. Differences exist, but most stakeholders agree on the importance of safe onsite storage of spent fuel and prompt relocation to a federally licensed offsite facility.

**SONGS Decommissioning Community Engagement Panel /Spent Fuel Solutions Joint Meeting
Department of Energy Funding to Support Community Engagement on Consent-Based Siting
of Consolidated Interim Storage Facilities**

Thursday, June 15, 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

- d) Keeping the US spent fuel program on track will require collaboration. The timeline for offsite storage of spent fuel is decades long and therefore requires sustained attention. We also need as many options as possible for offsite storage.
- e) Demolition of the SONGS structures continues to move quickly, with the turbine building removed and the effort to cut up and place the Greater Than Class C waste in canisters on track for completion this fall. Overall, the project more than halfway finished.

10) Additional information about SONGS activities:

- Learn more about the DOE's [consent-based siting](#) initiative.
- Watch Spent Fuel Solutions [webinars](#) including the March 2023 program on international best practices for siting, design, and construction of permanent repositories for spent fuel.
- Visit the SONGS [community engagement page](#) to stay up to date on the CEP, sign up for a public walking tour, and request a speaker for your next civic group meeting.

11) Dan Stetson, and Martha McNicholas facilitated the public comment period

- a) Public comment was provided by the following individuals:
 - i) Cathy Iwane (Coalition for Nuclear Safety) – decommissioning trust fund, Holtec canisters
 - ii) Alice McNally (Coalition for Nuclear Safety) – consent-based siting, hot cell facility
 - iii) Nina Babiarz (Public Watchdogs) – former CEP presentations, scratched canisters
 - iv) Gary Headrick (San Clemente Green) – recent Public Watchdog seminar
 - v) Charles Langley (Public Watchdogs) – privatizing nuclear waste

12) Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.