

SONGS Community Engagement Panel Meeting
SONGS Environmental and Decommissioning Updates
7 March 2024

Key Takeaways

A virtual meeting of the Community Engagement Panel included updates on SONGS environmental stewardship programs and the status of the decommissioning effort.

The environmental update was the focus topic of the evening and provided detailed information regarding the SONGS environmental programs, sea level rise (SLR), liquid batch releases, and the Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP).

SCE shared the results of the 2022 SLR Impact Assessment Report, which is required annually by the California State Lands Commission. The report concluded that the "riprap" is in good condition and able to withstand extreme sea level rise through at least 2050. The beaches fronting SONGS have narrowed to pre-construction widths and mainly have been influenced by dry weather conditions since the early 2000s. The Holtec independent spent fuel storage installation support foundation remains above the ground water table through 2050.

SCE explained the process for cleaning up radioactive waste system water prior to releases. Ocean discharges are permitted by SONGS' National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit, which is required by the Clean Water Act, a federal program administered by the California State Water Boards that establishes limits on what can be discharged as well as monitoring requirements. Discharge of radioactive materials is exclusively regulated by the NRC, which establishes limits.

The environmental segment included details about the SONGS Radioactive Effluent Control Program (RECP) which provides release requirements for sampling, concentrations, and dose limits, and the REMP which monitors for accumulation in the environment over time, validates releases from RECP are accounted for, and direct measurement of important dose pathways such as ingestion, inhalation, and direct radiation. Results are available in a report posted online.

The dismantlement update included a review of the project schedule and current activities, including photos. SCE is more than halfway done with the current phase of dismantlement, with full completion expected by the end of 2028.

Shareables

- Check out the 2022 Sea Level Rise Impact Assessment Report
- Review a draft update of the California Ocean Protection Council's sea level rise guidance
- Watch a recent Spent Fuel Solutions coalition webinar featuring mayors from Finland and Sweden who welcome the disposal of spent nuclear fuel in their communities
- Watch the webinar "Sharing Perspectives: DOE Consent-Based Consortia Listening Session"
- 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