Community Engagement Panel Regular Meeting
SONGS Environmental Stewardship
Thursday, March 7, 2024, 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/Mayor of San Clemente), Martha McNicholas (CEP Secretary), Ted Quinn (American Nuclear Society), Michelle Anderson (Orange County Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management Director), Sam Jammal (Camp Pendleton, Community Plans and Liaison Officer), 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), Chase O'Farrell (alternate for Jim Desmond, San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District), Alyssa Napuri (alternate for Katrina Foley, Orange County Supervisor, 5th District) and Kristal Jabara (alternate for Hon. Jim Desmond, San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District)
   b) Absent: Hon. Jim Desmond, (San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District), Hon. Katrina Foley, (Orange County Supervisor, 5th District), 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) SONGS Representatives: Fred Bailly (Chief Nuclear Officer and Vice President of Decommissioning), Vince Bilovsky (Director, Decommissioning Project), Ron Pontes (General Manager Environmental, Waste, and Radiation Protection), and Gary Huff (Radiation Safety Manager, Energy*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 first quarter meeting of 2024. He covered the agenda topics and explained that the earlier meeting time was to accommodate participant schedules and the online format allows for participation without the commute. Stetson shared his views on the Spent Fuel Coalition quarterly webinar, which featured local officials from international host communities for spent nuclear fuel disposal facilities. He also informed panel members and the public that the meeting would include two 30-minute public comment periods; (1) for questions related to the environmental update and (2) for general questions, to equal the one-hour public comment period.

4) **CEP General Community Update:** Stetson welcomed new CEP member Michael Parham, Vice President of the Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees. He also provided a report-out on the December 7, 2023, CEP member consultation meeting, which included feedback from panel members on what they are hearing about SONGS, public interests and concerns, suggestions for future topics, and enhancements to key takeaways. Stetson identified the specific suggested topics that would be covered during the first quarter meeting.

5) **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. Bailly shared the types of resources available to learn more about SONGS and urged panel members and guests to check out the decommissioning webpage at www.songscommunity.com to stay informed about the dismantlement of the plant, including where to sign up for public tours.

6) **SONGS Environmental Update:** Pontes provided an overview of the environmental stewardship programs at the plant which are designed to protect the public, workers, and the natural environment. He discussed king tides and the 2022 Sea Level Rise (SLR) Impact Assessment Report and informed members and guests that the new report is expected to be available on the SONGS website in April 2024. Pontes also explained how SCE assesses and reports the potential impact of sea level rise using California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) SLR guidance, which concluded that the Holtec Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation remains above the groundwater table through 2050. He explained the results of the revetment (rip-rap) stability analysis, the seasonal beach profile assessment, ground water monitoring, and the results of the draft 2024 OPC SLR Guidance. Pontes shared the process for cleaning up radioactive wastewater prior to batch releases and the schedule for planned releases in 2024 and 2025. He explained how the liquid batches releases pose no harm to the public or the environment and is supported by decades of monitoring. The wastewater is cleaned up well below SONGS Nuclear Regulatory Commission license requirements for drinking water. SCE also provides a 48-hour advance notice of batch releases to the public via www.songscommunity.com. Pontes closed by sharing the schedule for the Wheeler North Reef and San Dieguito Wetlands Technical Review workshops.

7) **Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program:** Huff provided a comprehensive overview of the SONGS Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP), which monitors whether radioactivity is accumulating in the environment over time and the Radioactive Effluent Control Program (RECP), which provides release requirements for sampling, concentration limits and dose limits, releases measured prior to dilution in the environment and information for dose calculations. He explained how REMP analysis results indicate that SONGS has not had a detectable impact on the environment. In fact, the results of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Citizen's Science Project are consistent with SONGS REMP results, with no effect due to SONGS releases indicated. The results for both programs are captured in the SONGS Annual Radioactive Release Report provided here.

   Huff continued with an in-depth overview of liquid dose modeling for human ingestion and the calculation process. Huff discussed independent marine sampling frequency, analysis, and reporting. He also explained the environmental and global (atmospheric weapons testing and nuclear) sources of Tritium and the results of monitoring the ocean water and onsite ground water at SONGS, adding that SONGS releases of tritium are extremely small, and not detectable in ocean water. In 2023, all releases contained less than one drop of tritiated water.

8) **Dismantlement Update:** Bilovsky provided an overview of the dismantlement project schedule and key dismantlement work activities. He shared a demolition status map of the plant and photographs of ongoing work activities inside the containment domes and elsewhere onsite. The dismantlement project is more than halfway done and on track for completion in late 2028.

9) Chairman Dan Stetson offered key takeaways summarized here:

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

b) The environmental update was the focus topic of the evening and provided detailed information regarding the SONGS environmental programs, sea level rise, REMP, and liquid batch releases,

c) 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.

d) 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.

e) The environmental segment included details about the SONGS Radioactive Effluent Control Program 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.

f) 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.

10) Additional information about SONGS activities:

- 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

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

a) The following individuals participated in the public comment period:
   i) Alice McNally (Coalition for Nuclear Safety) – SONGS canister and infrastructure
   ii) Daryl Gale – sea level rise and safety at the Onagawa nuclear plant in Japan
   iii) Paul Blanch – results of studying tritium when released within NRC and EPA limits

iv) Gary Headrick (San Clemente Green) – water inundation and newsletter
v) Mandy Sackett (Surfrider Foundation) – move nuclear waste away from coast
vi) Nora Brosnan-Faltas (Surfrider Foundation) – move nuclear waste away from coast
vii) Charles Langley (Public Watchdogs) – How to determine mean lower level and inundation
viii) Ron Rodarte – rail line safety, rising water table, and evacuation plan
ix) Nina Babiarz (Public Watchdogs) – meeting timing and Lucius Pitkin Inc. report
x) Roy Perez – Randsburg Project (California Option) for interim storage of spent fuel

12) Meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.