Community Engagement Panel Meeting
SONGS Dismantlement Update by San Onofre Decommissioning*Solutions*
Thursday, September 5, 2024, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. (PT) 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), Michelle Anderson (Orange County Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management Director), Hon. Jim Desmond, (San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District and Spent Fuel Solutions coalition Co-chair), Hon. Katrina Foley, (Orange County Supervisor, 5th District and Spent Fuel Solutions coalition Co-chair), Hon. John Taylor (San Juan Capistrano City Council), Captain Mel Vernon (San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians), Mike Balsamo (Sr. VP, Government Relations Rancho Mission Viejo and South Orange County Economic Coalition Board Member), Garry Brown (Orange County Coastkeeper), Valentine "Val" Macedo (Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 89), Hon. Michael Villar (Dana Point City Council), Sam Jammal (Camp Pendleton, Community Plans and Liaison Officer), Marni Magda (Sierra Club), Ted Quinn (American Nuclear Society), Mark Enmeier (alternate for Victor Cabral, CEP Vice Chairman/Mayor of San Clemente), Michael Parham (VP, Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees), Marisol Bell (alternate for Jim Desmond, San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District and Spent fuel Solutions coalition Co-chair), Alyssa Napuri (alternate for Katrina Foley, Orange County Supervisor, 5th District), Kelvin Barrios (alternate for Val Macedo Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 89), and Marisol Bell (alternate for Hon. Jim Desmond, San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District)
   b) Absent: Scott Kibbey (California State Parks, South Sector Superintendent), Rob Howard (City of Oceanside Representative) and Kristal Jabara (alternate for Hon. Jim Desmond, San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District)
   c) SCE Representatives: Fred Bailly (SCE Vice President and SONGS Chief Nuclear Officer), Ron Pontes (SCE Environmental, Waste and Radiation Protection Manager), and Jerry Stephenson (SCE Engineering Manager)
   1) Guest Speakers: Rich Kalman (Executive Sponsor, San Onofre 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 third quarter meeting of 2024. He reviewed the agenda topics and discussed the alternate timing of the online meeting to accommodate participants. Stetson discussed the second quarter CEP meeting, which was held at the Casino San Clemente and was well attended by members and the public.

   Bailly commented on the agenda item for the Unit 2 pressurizer shipment and explained that even though there were no consequences to the environment or the public and SCE received the lowest level violations from the NRC, SCE takes this event very seriously and this was unacceptable to SCE.

4) **CEP General Community Update:** Stetson shared the list of CEP members and thanked them for their continued dedication and engagement. He discussed attending the Department of Energy's shake table demonstration on July 18, at a University of California, San Diego facility, which demonstrated the ability of a spent fuel canister to withstand seismic events.

Bailly added that Paul Murray (DOE Assistant Deputy Secretary of Spent Nuclear Fuel and Waste Disposition) was the guest speaker at second quarter meeting. Bailly was also pleased with the turnout and the engagement by members and the public.

Mayor Cabral provided an update on the status of the local rail line, including challenges with unexpected rail service disruptions, the immediate, short and mid-term solutions, the state's role, and relevance to the City of San Clemente. He also provided links to the Orange County Transportation Authority Coastal Rail Resiliency Study and OTCA Rail Projects for more information on project plans and their status.

5) **Spent Fuel Solutions (SFS) Coalition Update:** Supervisor Katrina Foley discussed the Canadian Nuclear Waste Management Organization's efforts to identify a site for a repository by the end of 2024. Two Canadian candidate municipalities (Ignace and South Bruce) have signed partnership agreements. Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and Saugeen Ojibway Nation are also in negotiations to seek partnership agreements which is necessary for the process to move forward.

   Supervisor Jim Desmond discussed the Assembly Joint Resolution 18, which was jointly introduced by Assemblywoman Laurie Davies and Senator Catherine Blakespear in May and serves as an important opportunity to raise awareness of the spent fuel issue. The Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee unanimously approved the AJR-18 resolution (15-0) on August 5, and was unanimously passed the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee (35-0) on August 15. Spent Fuel Solutions helped secure more than 15 letters of support for the resolution and plans to continue engaging media to amplify the message, including op-eds and letters to the editor.

6) **SONGS Big Picture:** Bailly shared the importance of the SONGS decommissioning principles: safety, stewardship, and engagement. He emphasized that safety is the top priority. He discussed the three major work streams occurring at the plant: dismantling above ground structures, safely managing the spent fuel on site, and continuing to advocate for offsite storage and disposal.

7) **SONGS Dismantlement Update by San Onofre Decommissioning*Solutions*:** Kalman began his update with taking full responsibility for the U2 pressurizer shipment leak, the response effort, sending the pressurizers back to SONGS for the investigation, the comprehensive cause evaluation, and implementing the corrective actions to prevent a reoccurrence. He continued with an overview of the importance of worker safety, safety cultures and results. He discussed the dismantlement project schedule, key dismantlement work activities and their status, including the completion of the control building demolition. Ongoing activities include large component removal from the containment buildings, reactor vessel cut-up and removal, and waste shipments. Kalman also provided an overview of the environmental programs and stewardship in place to protect the local wildlife and the environment during dismantlement work activities. Programs include employee training, nesting bird management, monitoring by federal, state and county agencies, and more. The iconic domes will be dismantled by mid-2027. The dismantlement project is more than halfway done and is on track for completion in late 2028.

8) Stephenson presented information on the new outlet vent covers being added to the UMAX spent fuel storage system. The covers are being proactively added to increase weather resistance and have been designed and engineered not to impact the airflow or cooling of the canisters. He explained that the new outlet covers did not require an NRC review prior to installation. The addition of the new outlet vent covers was reviewed by the California Coastal Commission (CCC), which deemed the change as an "immaterial amendment." The CCC addressed comments from the public on July 12 and approved the change on July 17, 2024.

9) Pontes discussed the elimination of the exclusion area boundary (EAB). The EAB is no longer required now that the plant is shut down and defueled. This change was required by the California State Lands Commission lease PRC 6585.1 special provision 32 to provide unrestricted access to areas outside the SONGS leased property. The CCC's requirement for the SONGS beach walkway was related to the NRC requirement for an EAB during plant operations. To ensure safe access, SCE has committed to uphold its commitment to maintain the walkway in the absence of the EAB. On June 12, 2024, the CCC approved an amendment to Coastal Development Permit (CDP) 9-19-0194 for continued maintenance of the walkway.

Pontes also discussed the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) special conditions which require future reviews of coastal hazards in 2035. The 2015 Holtec ISFSI CDP special condition 2 is to apply for an amendment to the coastal development permit (CDP) to retain, remove or relocate the Holtec facility no later than 6 months prior to the end of the authorization period. The 2022 NUHOMS ISFSI special condition 4 is to apply for an amendment to CDP to retain, remove, or relocate the NUHOMS ISFSI no later than 12 months prior to the end of the authorization period.

10) Pontes provided a detailed overview of the Unit 2 pressurizer shipment during transit to Clive, Utah for disposal. On June 30, a rail worker identified a leak from the Unit 2 pressurizer manway while it was parked in a San Bernardino railyard. A SONGS radiation protection team was promptly mobilized and dispatched to the railyard to perform radiological surveys and stop the leak. Radiological surveys of the water indicated that the leak was limited to the top of the railcar, no readings were above background radiation levels on or around the car, and there was no risk to public health. The U3 pressurizer was not leaking. Both pressurizers were shipped back to the SONGS site on July 24. Both pressurizers had been manifested as sealed and dry packages per NRC and DOT regulations. The NRC issued SCE two severity level IV (lowest level Non-Cited Violations; one for a package that was not leak tight, and another because the package should have been dry but contained liquid). Pontes explained the details of the investigation, which identified thermal sleeve weep holes in the Unit 2 pressurizer were unexpectedly blocked leading to the retention of approximately 190 gallons of water after the pressurizer was drained. The higher ambient temperature in San Bernardino (as compared to the SONGS coastal region) increased the internal pressure of Unit 2 pressurizer, causing the retained water to leak though the manway studs. The Unit 3 pressurizer was dry because the weep holes were not blocked when it was fully drained. Pontes also discussed the corrective actions to prevent a reoccurrence, including steps to verify similar waste packages that have potential for trapped liquid are dry and properly sealed prior to shipment

11) During the liquid batch release update, Pontes shared a new link on how to find the 48-hour advance notices for batch releases on the front of www.songscommunity.com webpage. He explained the information provided on release notifications, reviewed the water clean-up process and the status of 2024 releases to date. He reiterated that the liquid batch releases pose no harm to the public or the environment, which is supported by decades of environmental monitoring. The water is cleaned up well below SONGS NRC license requirements. Pontes also provided links to Surfrider Foundation's independent testing of ocean water samples by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and the March 7, 2024, CEP meeting which covered SCE Environmental Stewardship and detailed batch release information. He shared an aerial photo of the discharge location which starts at >1 mile offshore and is 50 feet below the surface of the ocean. He discussed the radiological environmental monitoring program (REMP) and how the results are provided on the SONGS Environmental Stewardship webpage.

Pontes shared information on a recent emerging issue regarding tritium monitoring on the SONGS site. He shared how SCE monitors the groundwater below the SONGS site via wells, has been sampling the wells for decades, and reports results to the NRC and via SCE effluent reports. SCE identified slightly elevated levels of tritium in a ground well so a second nearby well was sampled and was also found to have slightly elevated levels of tritium. Both well results were below the level for drinking water standard. He emphasized that the ground water below the site is not drinking water, it is brackish salt water. SCE has informed the NRC and other agencies and wants to make the panel members and the public aware of the issue even though there is no risk to public health. SCE has hired a hydrogeologist to identify the source of the tritium and determine any potential mitigation measures. Pontes explained that although not desired, this is also not completely unexpected. Slightly elevated levels of tritium have occurred at Unit 1 at similar levels. In 2012 SCE started extraction of the water beneath Unit 1 via onsite wells and turned those pumps off in 2015. SCE will continue to keep the panel members and the public updated on the issue.

12) Closing Remarks: Bailly thanked the panel members and the public for participating in the meeting and asking questions about matters that are important to them, adding he appreciates the challenge. He explained that the team at SONGS takes these matters very seriously, whether it's related to waste shipments or the emergent tritium matter. SCE values transparency and the team includes some very talented professionals who work hard to demonstrate their commitment to safety, stewardship, and engagement. Bailly assured meeting participants that SCE will continue to keep the CEP and the local communities up to date on their assessment of the tritium matter and any mitigating actions. 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.

13) Chairman Dan Stetson offered key takeaways summarized here:

a) SCE's decommissioning general contractor provided an overview of the latest dismantlement work at the retired San Onofre nuclear plant during a public meeting of the SONGS Community Engagement Panel (CEP) on Sept. 5. The contractor, San Onofre Decommissioning*Solutions*, just reached a major milestone with the demolition of the control building that once housed the plant's nuclear operations center.

b) Stetson highlighted a demonstration by the Department of Energy at a shake table at UC San Diego on July 18 during which a full-sized canister with dummy fuel assemblies was subjected to forces generated by a maximum credible earthquake for San Onofre.

c) Co-Chairs of the Spent Fuel Solution coalition, Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley, and San Diego County Supervisor Jim Desmond, delivered updates on efforts to clear San Onofre of spent fuel. Supervisor Foley reported on the Canadian spent fuel management program that is in the final stages of identifying an informed and willing community to host the country's deep geologic repository for the permanent disposal of spent fuel. Supervisor Desmond reported on the California legislature's adoption of Assembly Joint Resolution 18 that sent a strong message to Congressional leaders about the need for solutions.

d) The SCE team covered other topics of interest, including the recent rail shipment of large components called "pressurizers," one of which was found to be leaking water and was returned to San Onofre for evaluation and corrective actions to prevent a reoccurrence. Other topics included the cleanup and release of wastewater in keeping with federal regulations and recent approvals of minor "immaterial" amendments to permits by the California Coastal Commission.

e) Of note was that SCE has identified an emergent issue with slightly elevated levels of tritium in groundwater, although at low levels that do not present a risk to public health and safety. SCE committed to keeping the communities updated on the matter as more is learned and mitigations are developed and implemented over time.

f) In closing the meeting, Stetson commented on the wide range of topics discussed, from dismantlement work to the tritium matter. He stated it will be helpful to continue to get updates from SCE on matters such as the pressurizer shipment and tritium, even though neither present a risk to public health and safety.

14) Additional information about SONGS activities:

- Watch a brief video of the recent shake table demonstration at UC San Diego
- Learn more about AJR18 that was introduced by Assemblywoman Laurie Davies (R-Laguna Niguel) and Senator Catherine Blakespear (D-Encinitas) and adopted by both chambers
- Stay up to date SONGS www.SONGScommunity.com

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

a) The following individuals participated in the public comment period:
   i) Ace Hoffman (local resident) - contingencies for potential canister breaches, emergencies
   ii) Alice McNally (Coalition for Nuclear Safety) - Unit 2 pressurizer shipment, two NRC violations
   iii) Joe Moross (Safecast) - found elevated radiation using his personal equipment near the site
   iv) Daryl Gale (local resident) - water release notifications and list of nuclides
   v) Nina Babiarz (Public Watchdogs) - California Coastal Commission special conditions 7 and 19
   vi) Mandy Sackett (Surfrider Foundation) - requested monitoring data in units of becquerels
   vii) Charles Langley (Public Watchdogs) - radiological results of the water in the U2 pressurizer

16) Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.