SONGS CEP Compilation of Public Email Communications

7-26-24 to 10-17-24

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1. For Awareness: Local News Coverage on Spent Nuclear Fuel

From: Manuel Camargo <Manuel.Camargo@sce.com>
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2024 9:33 AM
To: Daniel T. Stetson; Victor Cabral; Victor Cabral; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Katrina Foley; Rob Howard; Sam Jammal; Scott Kibbey; Val Macedo; Marni Magda; Michael Parham; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael Villar; Alyssa Napuri; Mark Enmeier; Kristal Jabara; John Gabbard; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz; Kelvin Barrios
Cc: Fred M Bailly; Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom; Liese Mosher; Julie Holt; Amy F Pressler; James Peterson; Laura Parra; Jessica Luternauer; Tom Isaacs
Subject: FYA: Local News Coverage on Spent Nuclear Fuel

Hello SONGS Community Engagement Panel,

I write to share news coverage stemming from a symposium hosted by the Samuel Lawrence Foundation at UC San Diego on Wednesday. KPBS produced TV news and print coverage and the *San Diego Union-Tribune* ran a print story (PDFs also attached). Remarks by Irvine Vice Mayor Larry Agran about the concept of the State of California taking action to inspect, repackage if necessary, and moving SONGS spent fuel elsewhere on Camp Pendleton attracted some attention.

Provided for your awareness. Let me know if you have questions.

Manuel

Manuel C. Camargo Jr.
Principal Manager, Strategic Planning
Southern California Edison | SONGS Decommissioning

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BUSINESS > ENERGY

Should California's Legislature jump into the debate about nuclear waste at San Onofre?

The vice mayor of Irvine wants to move dozens of canisters to higher ground at Camp Pendleton; Southern California Edison is opposed



..On Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021 in San Diego County, CA., at San Onofre Nuclear Plant the high secured section of the plant where nuclear waste is stored in specially built containers. (Nelvin C. Cepeda / The San Diego Union-Tribune)

By **ROB NIKOLEWSKI** | rob.nikolewski@sduniontribune.com | The San Diego Union-Tribune
UPDATED: July 25, 2024 at 4:34 p.m.

A member of the Irvine City Council wants members of the state Legislature to introduce a bill that would move dozens of canisters of nuclear waste at the shuttered San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station to higher ground at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

But officials at Southern California Edison, the utility in charge of dismantling the power plant, insist the 3.55 million pounds of radioactive spent fuel is safely stored at facilities at the north end of the site, known as SONGS.

Irvine Vice Mayor Larry Agran says he has talked to Southern California lawmakers about introducing what's called the CalSafe Nuclear Waste Storage Plan Act that would require the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to inspect the spent nuclear fuel at SONGS, repackage it if necessary and then place the waste in a "fortified" storage facility elsewhere at Camp Pendleton.

The Office of Planning and Research would have one year to come up with a plan should the bill become law.

Camp Pendleton would be part of any such proposal because SONGS is located on an 85-acre chunk of the base, which is owned by the Department of the Navy.

Agran cited concerns about rising sea levels, king tides, tsunamis and potential earthquakes occurring at or near San Onofre for his desire to bring the bill to Sacramento. He also wants to put the waste in thicker canisters. The spent fuel is currently stored in stainless steel casks that are five-eighths of an inch thick.

Agran hopes a bill can be introduced in January.

"We're talking about a catastrophic consequence for much of Southern California if we don't develop and implement a plan to move the stored waste to a more safe configuration," Agran said after speaking at a nuclear waste symposium Wednesday at UC San Diego. A fixture in Irvine politics since the late 1970s, Agran has voiced concerns in the past about SONGS, which is 32 miles south of Irvine.



Larry Agran, vice mayor of Irvine, talking at a nuclear waste symposium at UC San Diego on Wednesday (Rob Nikolewski/The San Diego Union-Tribune)

The symposium was sponsored by the Samuel Lawrence Foundation, a nonprofit based in Del Mar that has been a harsh critic of Southern California Edison's oversight at SONGS.

Decisions about storing and eventually moving waste from commercial nuclear power plants have been delegated to federal officials at agencies such as the U.S. Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

But Agran says his proposal "would get the state of California to weigh in here at the federal level and make it happen. California is the fifth-biggest economy in the world. If the state becomes an advocate, things begin to move."

Nuclear material at SONGS has long been a source of anxiety for some Southern

"I think (Agran's) proposal is a good one because it brings attention to the issue," said retired U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Len Hering, who also spoke at the symposium. "Whether or not the plan is successful, individuals who are in the Legislature will now become aware of what's happening."

SONGS has not produced electricity since 2012 after a leak in a steam generator tube led to its closing.

The plant is now being decommissioned and is in the fourth year of a $4.7 billion dismantlement project that is scheduled to wrap up by the end of 2028.

But the spent fuel that accumulated during the years SONGS produced electricity remains on the site.

Some 73 stainless steel canisters loaded with spent fuel assemblies have been lowered into vertical cavities at the storage site, behind a seawall a little more than 100 feet from the Pacific. An additional 63 canisters of waste rest horizontally nearby, including 13 filled with material from the dismantlement project.

The situation at SONGS is not unique.

As is the case for the roughly 89,000 metric tons of waste that has accumulated at nuclear power plants in 35 states around the country, the canisters sit near the beach at San Onofre because the federal government has not built a repository where spent fuel from commercial reactors can go.

Yucca Mountain in Nevada had been slated to take the waste but the Obama administration cut off funding for the site in 2010, following years of protests from lawmakers in the Silver State who had long opposed the project.

The Biden administration, through the U.S. Department of Energy, has kicked off efforts to find communities in the U.S. that would consider taking at least some of the waste on an interim basis.

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm came to SONGS last year and announced the Biden administration will spend $26 million to engage communities who may be interested in accepting some of the spent fuel.

Agran says his plan can buy time until interim storage facilities are built.

"The idea that the consolidated interim storage plan emanating from the federal

The utility "appreciates the frustration with the federal spent fuel program," Manuel Camargo, Southern California Edison's principal manager of strategic planning, said in an email to the Union-Tribune. Camargo said, "this is a federal issue and, by law, the U.S. Department of Energy is responsible" for disposing of spent fuel from sites including San Onofre.

"The best thing California legislators can do is push congressional leaders to act now," Camargo said. "The DOE (Department of Energy) is 26 years overdue," referring to the federal government's original commitment to find a repository by 1998.

Insisting the waste is "safely stored in its current location" at SONGS, Camargo said an inspection protocol is in place and the five-eighths of an inch thickness on each canister's walls exceeds the current industry standard of one-half inch.

Moving the waste to higher ground on Camp Pendleton has been discussed before.

In 2019, a regional liaison officer for the Marine Corps told the Union-Tribune the Navy essentially defers to the assessment of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that the current storage location at San Onofre is safe.

Asked for reaction to Agran's proposal, a communications officer at Camp Pendleton said via email, "Base officials are not in a position to comment on prompts to local state elected officials requesting legislative consideration on matters" concerning SONGS.

Provided his proposal moves forward, Agran foresees California working with the federal government "to get this done," he said. "First, we've got to get the plan, and then it's a question of implementing the plan."

Edison officials say more than 80 percent of the canisters could be taken off-site now if a permanent or interim storage facility existed and 100 percent of canisters will be ready to be shipped by 2030.



Some 3.55 million pounds of waste from spent nuclear assemblies are stored in stainless steel canisters at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, operated by Southern California Edison. (Eduardo Contreras / The San Diego Union-Tribune)

As for the demolition of SONGS, about 1.1 billion pounds of material is expected to be removed from the site.

The plant's two distinctive domes, each 190 feet tall, will be taken down gradually by using hydraulic hammers that will chip away at the 160-foot diameter base of each structure. The chipping is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2026 — although it has not yet been determined whether Unit 2 will go first or Unit 3 will get the nod. It will take about nine months to reduce each dome to rubble, finishing in late 2027.

Once the dismantlement is complete, all that is expected to remain at SONGS will be two dry storage facilities; a security building with personnel to look over the waste; a seawall 28 feet high, as measured at average low tide at San Onofre Beach; a walkway connecting two beaches north and south of the plant, and a switchyard with power lines.

The switchyard's substation without transformers stays put because it houses electricity infrastructure that provides a key interconnection for the power grid in the region.

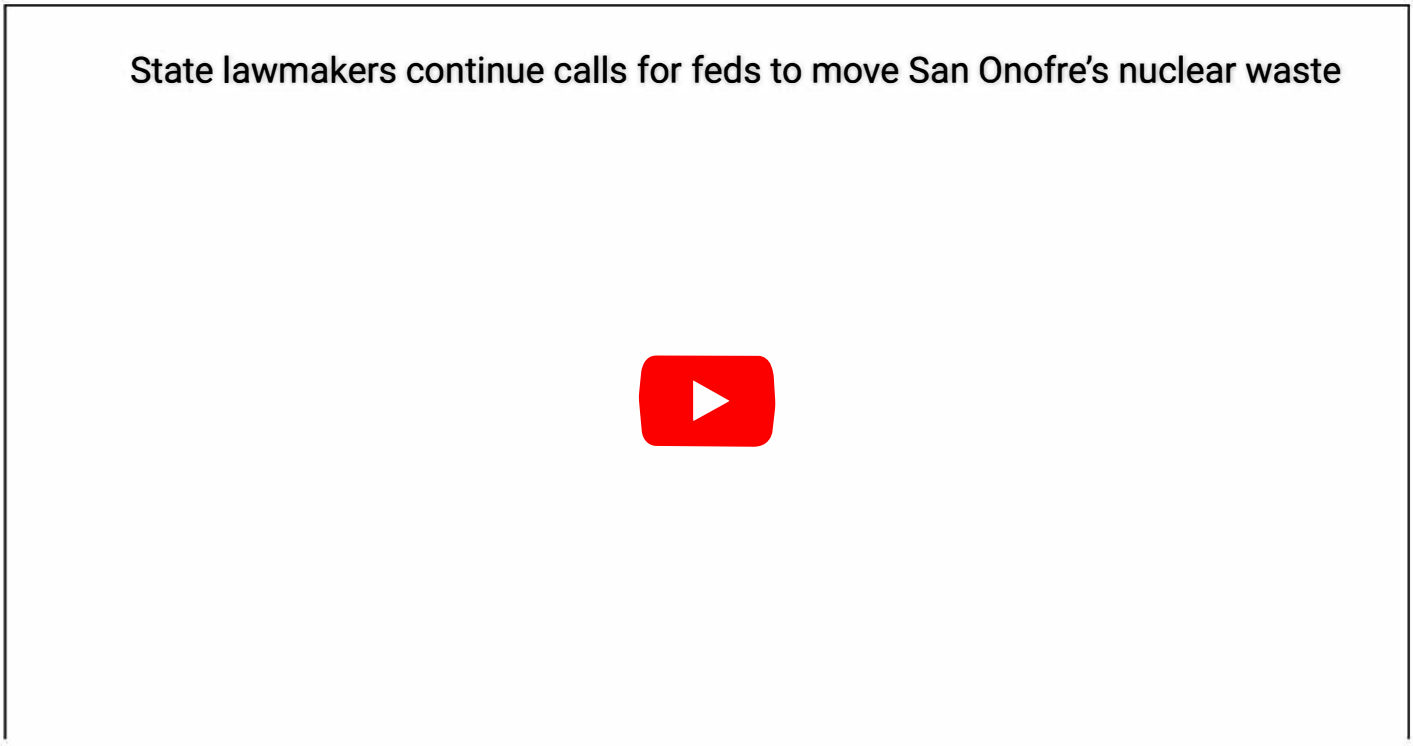
Originally Published: July 25, 2024 at 3:58 p.m.

State lawmakers continue calls for feds to move San Onofre's nuclear waste

By Katie Anastas / General Assignment Reporter
Contributors: Carlos Castillo / Video Journalist, Charlotte Radulovich / Video Journalist

Published July 25, 2024 at 5:49 PM PDT

LISTEN • 1:19



KPBS
Here and Now

Lawmakers and scientists gathered at UC San Diego Wednesday to discuss risks and solutions for nuclear waste storage at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station.

The plant was shut down in 2013 after a small leak of radioactive steam. Its owner, Southern California Edison, has been dismantling it for the last few years. More than 3.5 million pounds of nuclear waste is still stored there in steel canisters surrounded by concrete.

“This fuel sits just 100 feet from the Pacific Ocean, on an active fault line, near Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, and near San Diego and Los Angeles,” Rep. Mike Levin (D-Oceanside) told Wednesday’s event attendees. “It’s neither the safest nor most effective long-term solution for our spent nuclear fuel.”

The California Department of Public Health reports monthly on radiation levels at the site. Southern California Edison said it closely monitors the safety of the storage containers, along with coastal erosion and sea-level rise.

It’s also advocating for the federal government to remove the waste.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act required the Department of Energy to start accepting nuclear waste from companies like Edison by 1998. That didn’t happen.

Manuel Camargo, Southern California Edison’s principal manager for strategic planning, said utilities sued and won. The United States has paid about $9 billion in damages as of September 2020, according to the Department of Energy.

“As a result, all taxpayers in the U.S., whether you ever received a kilowatt of nuclear power or not, are now having to pay for this on site storage that we're doing that you never should have had to implement,” Camargo said.

Last June, U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said the department had begun looking for communities to temporarily store nuclear waste from dozens of plants across the country. The Obama administration abandoned plans for a permanent storage site at Yucca Mountain.

“There's international consensus among engineers on how to store spent nuclear fuel and dispose of spent nuclear fuel,” Camargo said. “The real challenge is a sociopolitical

On Wednesday, Irvine Vice Mayor Larry Agran suggested moving San Onofre's nuclear waste to the other side of the I-5 at Camp Pendleton. The Marine Corps has said that's up to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.



Katie Anastas / *KPBS*

Irvine Vice Mayor Larry Agran speaks at a Samuel Lawrence Foundation symposium on radioactive waste at UC San Diego on Wednesday, July 24, 2024.

Camargo said, if sea level rise necessitated it, Edison could move the spent fuel to higher ground on the plant's property. That would likely be where the containment domes are now, which are set to be removed in the next few years.

Republican State Assemblymember Laurie Davies, who represents Oceanside, Camp Pendleton and other nearby communities, is asking state lawmakers to pass a resolution urging the federal government to "prioritize fulfilling the federal government's legal and contractual obligation" to move the nuclear waste.

"This resolution is not here to debate the merits of nuclear energy," she told the Assembly's energy committee earlier this month. "It is simply a tool to show the federal government that the world's fifth largest economy is ready for them to start acting and

Davies co-authored the resolution with State Sen. Catherine Blakespear, a Democrat who represents Encinitas. It left the Assembly's energy committee earlier this month. The full Assembly can take it up for a vote when the legislative session resumes next month.

"The state of California is a huge entity," Agran said in an interview during Wednesday's symposium. "If the state of California became an advocate for the safety of the people of the state of California, an advocate at the federal level, things would start to happen."

Tags Environment | Energy | Climate Change | California | North County



Katie Anastas

Katie Anastas is a general assignment reporter for KPBS News, covering a wide range of different issues that affect the diverse neighborhoods of San Diego County. Katie has worked as a reporter at KTOO in Juneau, Alaska where she's covered city and tribal government, housing, tourism and statewide education issues.

See stories by Katie Anastas

2. For Awareness: Update on July Shipment of SONGS Unit 2 Component

From: Manuel Camargo
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2024 2:45 PM
To: Daniel T. Stetson; Victor Cabral; Victor Cabral; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Katrina Foley; Rob Howard; Sam Jammal; Scott Kibbey; Val Macedo; Marni Magda; Michael Parham; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael Villar; Alyssa Napuri; Mark Enmeier; Kristal Jabara; John Gabbard; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz; Kelvin Barrios
Cc: Fred M Bailly; Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom; Liese Mosher; Julie Holt; Amy F Pressler; James Peterson; Laura Parra; Mark E Morgan
Subject: For Awareness: Update on July Shipment of SONGS Unit 2 Component

Hello SONGS CEP Members and Alternates,

I write with an update on the SONGS Unit 2 component called a "pressurizer" that in early July leaked water at a railyard in San Bernadino County while being shipped offsite for disposal. The US NRC has issued SCE two Severity Level IV (lowest level) Non-Cited Violations related to the packaging of the shipment: one for a shipment package which was not leakproof and properly closed and sealed, and the second for packaging that was not proper for the contents being shipped. A Level IV Non-Cited Violation is typically assigned to issues of low safety significance.

Radiological surveys performed at the railyard confirmed no detectable radioactivity above background levels on or around the component, supporting a conclusion that there was no threat to public health and safety, or the environment. No public declarations were required.

Recall this leak was at a rate of approximately one drop every two minutes. The leak on the Unit 2 component was stopped and sealed, and the deck of the rail car was cleaned. The second component, the pressurizer from Unit 3, did not leak; it was stationed at the same railyard while enroute to the offsite disposal facility. Both the Unit 2 and Unit 3 components were returned to the SONGS site on July 4 and will remain on site while an evaluation is being conducted to learn from this event and avoid reoccurrence with similar components. We do not have a date by which the evaluation will be completed, and the components transported offsite.

SCE reviewed the NRC findings with the SONGS decommissioning contractor and workers, and we remain committed, in our oversight role, to ensuring safety and adherence to all regulatory requirements.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Manuel

Manuel C. Camargo Jr.
Principal Manager, Strategic Planning
Southern California Edison | SONGS Decommissioning
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3. SONGS Community Website Update re: Batch Releases

From: Daniel T. Stetson
Sent: Monday, August 5, 2024 12:49 PM
To: Alice McNally
Cc: Manuel Camargo
Subject: (External): SONGS Community website update re: Batch Releases
Hi Alice-

Thank you for your emails and valued input. Per your request/suggestion, the SCE team has reworked the website to make it easier to find information about the discharges.

Also, regarding your suggestion of adding dye to the discharges, Manuel has advised that the "SONGS NPDES permit prohibits discoloring the ocean." As a former US Coast Guard service member, I can attest there are very strict regulations and very expensive fines for discharging almost any unpermitted substance into the ocean.

Thanks again for your input and for SCE's follow-up.
Dan

Daniel T. Stetson
Trustee & Executive Director

The Nicholas Endowment

www.nicholas-endowment.org
Fight for the things that you care about. But do it in a way that will lead others to join you.
Ruth Bader Ginsburg

From: Manuel Camargo

Date: Monday, August 5, 2024 at 11:22 AM
To: Daniel T. Stetson
Cc: Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom, Julie Holt, Ronald Pontes, Liese Mosher
Subject: FYI: SONGS Community website update re: Batch Releases

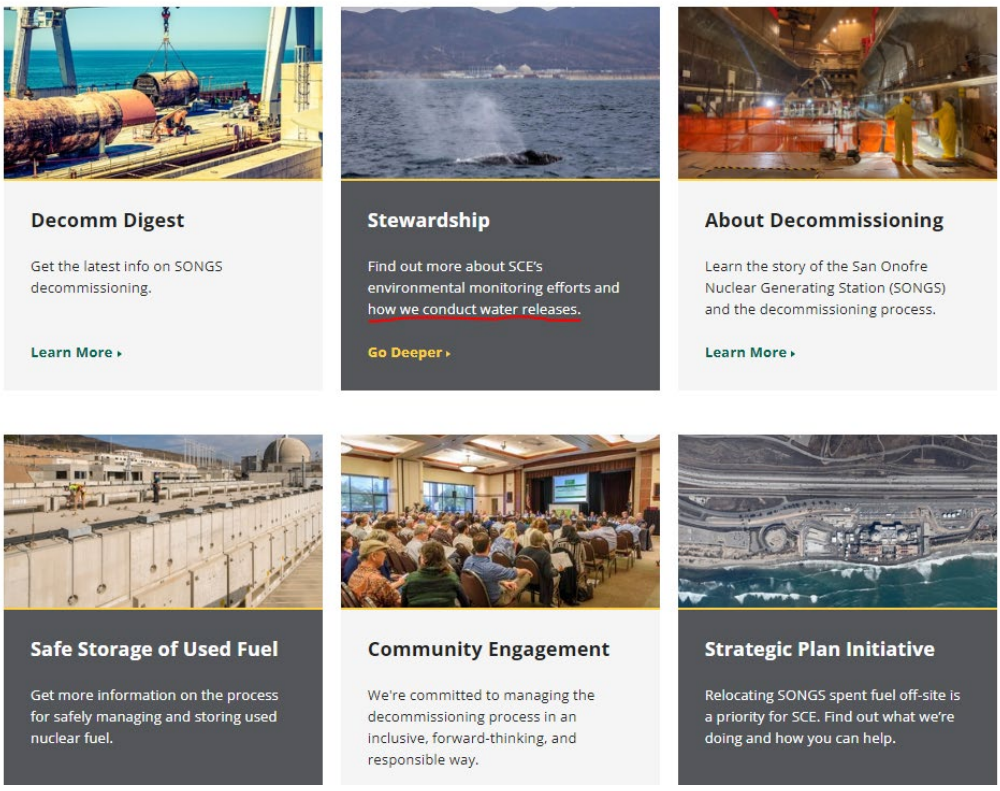
Hello Dan,

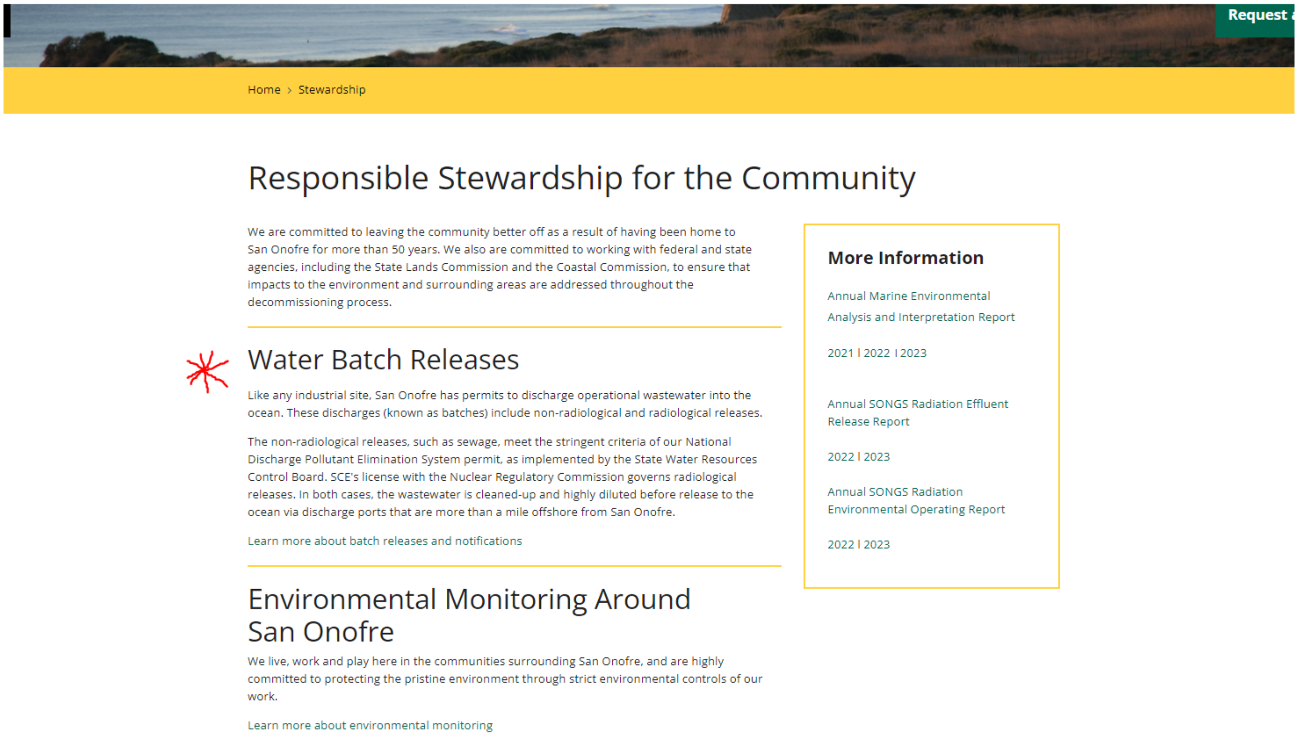
I write to make you aware the team has reworked the placement of information on SONGS batch releases to make it easier to find on our SONGS Community website. On the main landing page, "how we conduct water releases" is featured under Stewardship. Clicking on "go deeper" takes you directly to the environmental stewardship page where "water batch releases" now is prominent.

Ron will mention the new navigation during his update at the CEP meeting on Sept. 5.

SONGS CEP Compilation of Public Email Communications
7-26-24 to 10-17-24

See the marked-up screen grabs pasted below for detail:





Request

Home > Stewardship

Responsible Stewardship for the Community

We are committed to leaving the community better off as a result of having been home to San Onofre for more than 50 years. We also are committed to working with federal and state agencies, including the State Lands Commission and the Coastal Commission, to ensure that impacts to the environment and surrounding areas are addressed throughout the decommissioning process.

Water Batch Releases

Like any industrial site, San Onofre has permits to discharge operational wastewater into the ocean. These discharges (known as batches) include non-radiological and radiological releases.

The non-radiological releases, such as sewage, meet the stringent criteria of our National Discharge Pollutant Elimination System permit, as implemented by the State Water Resources Control Board. SCE's license with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission governs radiological releases. In both cases, the wastewater is cleaned-up and highly diluted before release to the ocean via discharge ports that are more than a mile offshore from San Onofre.

Learn more about batch releases and notifications

Environmental Monitoring Around San Onofre

We live, work and play here in the communities surrounding San Onofre, and are highly committed to protecting the pristine environment through strict environmental controls of our work.

Learn more about environmental monitoring

More Information

Annual Marine Environmental Analysis and Interpretation Report

2021 I 2022 I 2023

Annual SONGS Radiation Effluent Release Report

2022 I 2023

Annual SONGS Radiation Environmental Operating Report

2022 I 2023

Manuel

Manuel C. Camargo Jr.
Principal Manager, Strategic Planning
Southern California Edison | SONGS Decommissioning

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4. FYI: SONGS and the Federal Spent Fuel Management Program

From: Manuel Camargo
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2024 12:20 PM
To: Daniel T. Stetson; Victor Cabral; Victor Cabral; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Katrina Foley; Rob Howard; Sam Jammal; Scott Kibbey; Val Macedo; Marni Magda; Michael Parham; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael Villar; Alyssa Napuri; Mark Enmeier; Kristal Jabara; John Gabbard; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz; Kelvin Barrios
Cc: Fred M Bailly; Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom; Liese Mosher; Julie Holt; Amy F Pressler; James Peterson; Laura Parra; Jessica Luternauer; Tom Isaacs; Jerry L Stephenson; Derek J. Brice; Mark E Morgan; James A. Madigan
Subject: FYI: SONGS and the Federal Spent Fuel Management Program

All,
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We have a few items to share related to news on SONGS and the federal spent fuel management program.

SONGS in the news: The *San Diego Union-Tribune* and KPBS recently ran stories that mentioned SONGS. The *U-T* story stemmed from a nuclear waste symposium at UC San Diego. KPBS ran print and TV news segments after Irvine's Vice Mayor called on the state legislature to weigh in with a solution to spent fuel storage.

DOE Webinar: The US Department of Energy is hosting a webinar on Aug. 29 to expand the national conversation on spent nuclear fuel. The DOE's consent-based siting consortia will participate, and a facilitated roundtable discussion will include longtime CEP member Ted Quinn and an SCE representative. For more information and to register, click HERE.

Recycling Spent Fuel: There is a lot of talk about recycling or "reprocessing" spent fuel from current nuclear reactors for use in advanced, small modular reactors. Reprocessing is done in other countries, notably in France, but not in the US at present. A 15-minute video addresses the topic by exploring an Orano reprocessing facility in France and interviewing former US NRC Chair Allison Macfarlane. You may recall Macfarlane served on the Experts Team that advised SCE on the development of the Strategic Plan that explored alternatives for the offsite relocation of spent fuel.

Best regards,

Manuel

Manuel C. Camargo Jr.
Principal Manager, Strategic Planning
Southern California Edison | SONGS Decommissioning
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5. For Awareness: Voluntary Message Communication Regarding SONGS

From: Manuel Camargo
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2024 11:38 AM
To: Daniel T. Stetson; Victor Cabral; Victor Cabral; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Katrina Foley; Rob Howard; Sam Jammal; Scott Kibbey; Val Macedo; Marni Magda; Michael Parham; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael Villar; Alyssa Napuri; Mark Enmeier; Kristal Jabara; John Gabbard; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz; Kelvin Barrios; Bell, Marisol
Cc: Fred M Bailly; Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom; Liese Mosher; Julie Holt; Amy F Pressler; James Peterson; Laura Parra; Mark E Morgan
Subject: FYA: Voluntary Message Communication Regarding SONGS

Hello CEP Members and Alternates,

I write to make you aware of an emergent topic we will discuss at the CEP meeting this afternoon. We're providing voluntary notifications to other entities, as well.
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During routine monitoring over the past few months, Southern California Edison (SCE) observed a slightly elevated level of tritium in one of the groundwater monitoring wells at the retired San Onofre nuclear plant. In August, an adjacent well used for monitoring different, non-radiological parameters was also sampled to help us better understand the extent of the condition. The tritium concentration in the groundwater well is 3,430 picocuries per liter, and the finding in the second adjacent well is 19,100 picocuries per liter.

First and foremost, there is no risk to public health or safety.

For perspective, the tritium levels are below the standard for drinking water – a point we make to underscore the absence of hazard. Groundwater at the site and the general region around the site is not designated as a source of drinking water by the Regional Water Quality Control Board's San Diego Basin Plan. Also, the groundwater beneath the site is salty due to its proximity to the ocean.

SONGS groundwater quality has been monitored for decades to ensure timely detection of inadvertent releases to groundwater and to ensure that there are no off-site effects.

There continue to be no indications of adverse effects from SONGS groundwater. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)-mandated SONGS Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program (REMP) monitors for radioactivity in the environment surrounding SONGS, including ocean water, sediment and beach sand. The NRC threshold for tritium in a REMP ocean water sample that prompts reporting is 30,000 picocuries per liter. Our findings remain well below this level.

In our oversight role, SCE has a commitment to transparency in the decommissioning of the San Onofre nuclear plant and operates with a bias toward making the public aware of even low-level issues that do not affect health or safety but may be of interest. The SCE team is investigating the extent of the situation and potential actions to remediate the condition.

Tritium is produced naturally from the interactions of cosmic rays and gases in the upper atmosphere. A radioactive form of hydrogen, tritium also is a by-product of nuclear reactors. Tritium is present in groundwater and surface waters everywhere.

Manuel

Manuel C. Camargo Jr.
Principal Manager, Strategic Planning
Southern California Edison | SONGS Decommissioning
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6. News: Rep. Levin Introduces Spent Fuel Legislation

From: Manuel Camargo
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2024 2:57 PM
To: Daniel T. Stetson; Victor Cabral; Victor Cabral; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Katrina Foley; Rob Howard; Sam Jammal; Scott Kibbey; Val Macedo; Marni Magda; Michael Parham; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael
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Villar; Alyssa Napuri; Mark Enmeier; Kristal Jabara; John Gabbard; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz; Kelvin Barrios; Bell, Marisol
Cc: Fred M Bailly; Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom; Liese Mosher; Julie Holt; Amy F Pressler; James Peterson; Laura Parra; Mark E Morgan; David G. Victor; Tom Isaacs; Chris Wahl; Jessica Luternauer
Subject: NEWS: Rep. Levin Introduces Spent Fuel Legislation

All,

Representative Mike Levin (D/CA-49) and Representative August Pfluger (R/TX-11) today introduced a bill to overhaul the Nuclear Waste Policy Act in ways that can provide for a more durable spent fuel management program that includes both interim storage and permanent disposal. The bill is co-sponsored by Representative Scott Peters (D/CA-52). SCE supports many of the policies in what is called the Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2024 and we commend Representatives Levin and Pfluger for their leadership and initiative.

Those quoted in the news release below are Spent Fuel Solutions coalition Co-Chairs Foley and Desmond, former CEP Chair David Victor (copied here), and SCE's independent spent fuel advisor Tom Isaacs (also copied). Also copying SFS coalition managers Chris Wahl and Jessica Luternauer.

The process for hearings and, ideally, enactment is expected to be a long one but we are encouraged by the opportunity for helpful policy reform. More to come.

Mike Levin
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE PROUDLY SERVING CALIFORNIA'S 49TH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Contact: Raymond Rodriguez, 202-407-0805, Raymond.rodriguez@mail.house.gov

Rep. Mike Levin Introduces Bipartisan *Nuclear Waste Administration Act*

New Legislation Would Create Independent Federal Agency to Tackle Country's Nuclear Waste Challenges

Washington, D.C. – Rep. Mike Levin (CA-49) and Rep. August Pfluger (TX-11) today introduced the bipartisan *Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2024*, which would modernize our country's nuclear waste management program by establishing an independent Nuclear Waste Administration to manage the country's nuclear waste. In line with recommendations from the *Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Energy Future*, this bill would establish a new, single purpose organization to manage the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle, provide for a consent-based siting process for nuclear waste facilities, and ensure adequate and reliable funding for managing nuclear waste. It builds on legislation that the late Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) championed while she served in the United States Senate.

"The federal government has a responsibility to safely manage our nation's nuclear waste, but we've been caught in an impasse for decades," **said Rep. Levin.** "This legislation represents a

comprehensive pathway to modernize our nuclear waste program, based in consent. Our bipartisan bill would empower a new single-purpose, independent federal agency to consult and collaborate with communities to chart a path forward for safely storing and disposing of our nuclear waste. Years of inaction have left nuclear waste stored in communities all across the country – including ours – and with the federal government currently spending $2 million per day for the failure to fulfill its obligation to find a real solution. It's clear that now is the time to act on bold solutions."

"Nuclear energy plays an important role in our energy mix, especially as a significant increase in energy demand is projected over the next decade. However, one of the most significant challenges to broad deployment is the impasse regarding a permanent repository. West Texas has experienced the consequences of this impasse as evidenced by the Andrews County interim storage site. I am proud to introduce the 'Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2024' with Rep. Levin to move our country closer to developing a permanent repository and robust fuel management plan. We cannot meet our nuclear goals without this piece of the puzzle," **said Rep. Pfluger.**

Though the Department of Energy (DOE), which currently manages spent nuclear fuel, has made strides in recent years—including restarting a consent-based siting process for a consolidated interim storage (CIS) facility—a new single-purpose, independent federal agency solely dedicated to the safe, secure management, storage, and ultimate disposal of nuclear waste will be in a stronger position to focus on solving the long-term challenges unique to nuclear waste. It would be insulated from political headwinds and ever-changing funding levels. Additionally, this new agency acknowledges lessons learned and provides for a flexible, consent-based pathway for siting and operating both a CIS facility and ultimately a permanent repository.

This legislation allows for a CIS facility to first prioritize storing waste from shutdown nuclear reactors so that those sites can be redeveloped, while the Nuclear Waste Administration simultaneously works to site and construct a permanent repository to ultimately dispose of the nuclear waste. The new Nuclear Waste Administration will have access to a working capital fund in the U.S. Treasury, without needing further appropriation.

The *Nuclear Waste Administration Act* is also co-sponsored by Rep. Scott Peters (CA-52).

"As co-chairs of Spent Fuel Solutions and the County Supervisors who represent the communities closest to the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, we support this important legislation and applaud the leadership of Representatives Levin and Pfluger," **said Spent Fuel Solutions co-chairs Supervisor Jim Desmond and Supervisor Katrina Foley.** "Our coalition is encouraged by recent progress on consent-based siting for interim storage and urges the swift consideration of this bill to support the development of a permanent repository, as well. Through this bipartisan effort, we are confident the U.S. can secure offsite, federally licensed storage and disposal solutions for the spent nuclear fuel being stored in 34 states across the nation."

"It is terrific to see progress in framing new legislation on the nation's nuclear waste strategy. Moving the spent fuel from sites like San Onofre is long overdue. Now the even harder work begins to get this legislation passed in the House and the Senate," **said David Victor,**

Professor of Innovation and Public Policy at UC San Diego and Former Chair of the SONGS Community Engagement Panel.

"Legislation to accelerate a vibrant and durable nuclear waste program is necessary and I am very pleased to see this thoughtful initiative. We need to meet our obligations to current and future generations. I am hopeful this will lead to enactment soon," **said Tom Isaacs, the Lead Advisor of The Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future.**

Since taking office in 2019, Rep. Levin has made safety at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) and moving the spent nuclear fuel from the facility one of his top priorities. As part of that work, he convened the SONGS Task Force to develop policy recommendations to address long-term storage and disposal solutions for spent nuclear fuel. The task force issued a recommendation that an independent federal agency be established to manage nuclear waste. This legislation meets that recommendation.

To view the bill text of the Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2024, click here.

To view a one-pager fact sheet, click here.

Manuel

Manuel C. Camargo Jr.
Principal Manager, Strategic Planning
Southern California Edison | SONGS Decommissioning
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7. Update: Work on Large SONGS Components Complete

From: Manuel Camargo
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 4:14 PM
To: Daniel T. Stetson; Victor Cabral; Victor Cabral; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Katrina Foley; Rob Howard; Sam Jammal; Scott Kibbey; Val Macedo; Marni Magda; Michael Parham; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael Villar; Alyssa Napuri; Mark Enmeier; Kristal Jabara; John Gabbard; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz; Kelvin Barrios; Bell, Marisol
Cc: Fred M Bailly; Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom; Liese Mosher; Amy F Pressler; James Peterson; Laura Parra; Mark E Morgan; James A. Madigan; James Peattie; Christopher T Ahola; Ronald Pontes
Subject: UPDATE: Work on Large SONGS Components Complete

Dear CEP Members and Alternates,

Picking up on the briefing SCE provided during the Sept. 5 CEP meeting regarding the Unit 2 pressurizer, all evaluations and other work now has been completed and both the Units 2 and 3 pressurizers will be shipped to the disposal facility in Clive, Utah, today. SCE thoroughly reviewed the cause evaluations, associated corrective actions, the revised work package, and shipping manifests. All material was found to be satisfactory and compliant with regulations.
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As you will recall, at the end of June, SONGS brought the Units 2 and Unit 3 pressurizers back to the site after one was found dripping water at a rail yard in San Bernardino.

Best regards,

Manuel

Manuel C. Camargo Jr.
Principal Manager, Strategic Planning
Southern California Edison | SONGS Decommissioning
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8. Update: Final Update: Large SONGS Components Safely Arrived in Utah

From: Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 4:49 AM
To: Dan Stetson; Victor Cabral; Victor Cabral; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Katrina Foley; Rob Howard; Sam Jammal; Scott Kibbey; Val Macedo; Marni Magda; Michael Parham; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael Villar; Alyssa Napuri; Mark Enmeier; Kristal Jabara; John Gabbard; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz
Cc: Manuel Camargo
Subject: Subject: FINAL UPDATE – Large SONGS Components Safely Arrived in Utah

Dear CEP Members and Alternates,

The SONGS Units 2 and 3 pressurizers now have safely arrived at the disposal facility in Clive, Utah.

As you will recall, at the end of June the pressurizers were returned to San Onofre after one was found dripping water at a rail yard in San Bernardino. After SCE reviewed the cause evaluations, corrective actions, and shipping manifests, on Sept. 25 the components restarted their transportation. Now that shipment is complete.

Best regards,

Manuel

Manuel C. Camargo Jr.
Principal Manager, Strategic Planning
Southern California Edison | SONGS Decommissioning

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9. For Awareness: DOE Consent-Based Siting Webinar Nov. 20, 2024 - You Ask, DOE Answers: What's Next for the Federal Consolidated Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel?

From: Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom
Sent: Thursday, October 17, 2024 9:40 AM
To: Dan Stetson; Victor Cabral; Victor Cabral; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Katrina Foley; Rob Howard; Sam Jammal; Scott Kibbey; Val Macedo; Marni Magda; Michael Parham; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael Villar; Alyssa Napuri; Mark Enmeier; Kristal Jabara; John Gabbard; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz
Cc: Manuel Camargo
Subject: For Awareness: DOE Consent-Based Siting Webinar - You Ask, DOE Answers: What's Next for the Federal Consolidated Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel? Nov. 20, 2024, from 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET.

Dear CEP Members and Alternates,

I write to share news about an upcoming DOE consent-based siting webinar on November 20, 2024, from 4:00 – 5:00 PM (ET). See details below.

Lorraine Sandstrom
Community Affairs and Relations, Sr. Specialist
Community Engagement Panel (CEP) Management and Stakeholder Engagement (DA Complex-B)
Southern California Edison, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS)

From: U.S. DOE Consent-Based Siting <ConsentBasedSiting@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 8:26 AM
Subject: (External):WEBINAR: You Ask, DOE Answers: What's Next for the Federal Consolidated Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel? Nov. 20, 2024, from 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET.

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You're Invited: Consent-Based Siting Webinar



Please join DOE's Consent-Based Siting Consortia for a Discussion on What's Next for the Federal Consolidated Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel on Nov. 20, 2024, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET.

In this sixth installment of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) consent-based siting webinar series, DOE officials will discuss consent-based siting progress and answer questions related to the federal consolidated interim storage of spent nuclear fuel. The questions will be drawn from public feedback received during previous webinars, from social science research, and from inquiries sent to DOE email inboxes. The Consent-based Siting Consortia will also be in attendance. All communities, organizations, and individuals interested in DOE's consent-based siting and consortia activities are encouraged to attend this webinar and, if they would like to ask questions, submit them via Zoom.gov or by email at consentbasedsiting@hq.doe.gov.

Register for Webinar

Agenda

4:00 p.m.	**Consent-Based Siting Consortia Progress Update** *Vincent Ialenti* *Social Scientist, DOE Office of Consent-Based Siting*
4:05 p.m.	**Consent-Based Siting Program Update** *Marla Morales* *Director, DOE Office of Consent-Based Siting*
4:15 p.m.	**Panel Discussion** *Paul Murray, DOE Deputy Assistant Secretary for Spent Fuel & High-Level Waste Disposition* *Kimberly Petry, DOE Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Spent Fuel & High-Level Waste Disposition* *Erica Bickford, Director, DOE Office of Storage & Transportation* *Marla Morales, Director, DOE Office of Consent-Based Siting*
4:40 p.m.	**Live Audience Q&A**
5:00 p.m.	**Webinar Concludes**

For anyone unable to attend, the discussion will also be recorded and made available at energy.gov/consentbasedsiting. The consent-based siting webpage is the best source for learning more about consortia members and their work.

Reasonable Accommodation

A sign language interpreter and captioning will be used during the webinar. If you need other reasonable accommodation, please email your request to consentbasedsiting@hd.doe.gov by no later than **November 8, 2024**. If you request an accommodation after November 8, 2024, DOE will try to provide an accommodation, but cannot guarantee that DOE will be able to meet your request.

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This email was sent to manuel.camargo@sce.com using govDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Department of Energy - Office of Nuclear Energy Consent-Based Siting · 1000 Independence Ave, SW Washington, DC 20585

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