# SONGS CEP Compilation of Public Email Communications

**10-22-24 to 2-5-25**


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## 1. For Awareness: Response to Alice McNally to Correct the Record re: Welds not Wells

**From:** Manuel Camargo
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024 7:30 PM
**To:** Alice McNally
**Cc:** Ronald Pontes; Daniel T. Stetson
**Subject:** RE: (External): Fwd: Welds not wells

Hi Alice,

I write to correct the record for the September 5 CEP meeting. We reviewed the meeting transcript available here (see also excerpts below) and agree there was confusion about "wells" versus "welds." We did not address your questions related to the welds for the outlet vent covers or the vernal pools near SONGS.

The outlet vent covers are bolted to the vertical ventilated module lids, not the multi-purpose canisters. The canisters rest several feet below the lids and are never in contact with the outlet vent covers. Therefore, attachments for the outlet vent covers will not impact the canisters and there are no new welds on the canister shells that would be a concern with respect to chloride induced stress corrosion cracking.

SCE did not sample the vernal pools. The vernal pools are located in a Navy riparian area upgradient and north of SONGS Unit 2. As such, the vernal pools are not influenced by the tritium detected in groundwater to the west of the Unit 2 area. We are having the transcript corrected by replacing "burn up pool" with "vernal pool."

As is our custom, this email will be included in the next compilation of communication related to the SONGS CEP and posted to the SONGS website.

<u>Excerpts from the Sept. 5, meeting transcript of your public comment (pages 109 – 112):</u>
7 The third thing is the Coastal Commission
8 has told us in the permitting meeting on July 12th
9 that the NRC research shows weld corrosion. I
10 imagine that's part of the reason you're asking
11 for vent covers for flooding. You are admitting
12 that it is flooding. **So I do worry that the added**
**13 welds for these covers is going to add more**
**14 corrosion and cracking, which is the main problem**
**15 that we're worried about.**

**23 What about the burn-up pool? There's a**
**24 burn-up pool there. Is that now being tested?**

Thank you for your participation in the CEP meeting, and for your questions.

Best regards,
Manuel

Manuel C. Camargo Jr.
Principal Manager, Strategic Planning
Southern California Edison | SONGS Decommissioning
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**From:** Daniel T. Stetson
**Sent:** Thursday, September 5, 2024 5:25 PM
**To:** Manuel Camargo; Ronald Pontes; Alice McNally
**Subject:** (External):Fwd: Welds not wells

Thanks Alice!
Dan

Begin forwarded message:
**From:** Alice McNally
**Date:** September 5, 2024 at 5:22:49 PM PDT
**To:** "Daniel T. Stetson"
**Subject: Welds not wells**
Hi Dan,
There was some confusion on my testimony about the danger of adding canister Vent Covers and my concerns the that NRC research shows stress corrosion on Canister welds, shorting the canisters life.
The panel seems to think I was talking about wells.
I only asked about monitoring the Vernal pool.
Please call correct the records to reflect this.
A
Sent from my iPhone

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## 2. For Awareness: Letter to Dan Stetson from Alice McNally Regarding 4Q 2024 CEP Meeting Topics

**From:** Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 1:34 PM
**To:** Dan Stetson; VictorCabral; 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: Letter to CEP Members and Dan Stetson from Alice McNally for Upcoming 4Q CEP Meeting Scheduled for Thursday, November 7, (5:30 - 8:30 pm)

Dear CEP Members and Alternates,

For your awareness, we received the following letter from Alice McNally for the upcoming CEP meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 7. We plan to address her concerns during the relevant segments throughout the meeting.

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**From:** Alice McNally
**Sent:** Friday, October 25, 2024 3:41 PM
**To:** NUCCOMM <nuccomm@sce.com>
**Subject:** (External):Prior Comments for 11/07 CEP meeting Understanding Funds Related to SONGS Decommissioning
Community Engagement Panel, Dan Stetson et al,

One third of the fully funded SONGS decommissioning fund, of 4.4 billion dollars plus, has been paid into by customers and we continue to be billed each month. Edison is a monopoly, so we have had no other choice. The COST of DECOMMISSIONING SONGS was originally estimated at $4.7 billion.

Never the less, in 2020 the CPUC awarded SONGS $461million dollars, in new money, to cover the same steps estimated to cost $166 million in 2017. This is just short of 3 times what was predicted. Edison has repeatedly asked for more money, sighting delays contributing to higher costs.

Customers will also pay for the power they buy from the other plants while San Onofre is offline and is estimated to cost about $1/1 billion over five years. In 2015 consumer cost were predicted to be $10.4 billion.

Meanwhile Isotopes, cesium 137, cobalt 60 and Tritium have been found in the ground water at SONGS. This will certainly cause a major delay and is questionable if it can ever be cleaned up. Please discuss this today.

The IAEA stays that the decommissioning process usually takes around 15-20 years. The 1800 tons of stranded Nuclear Waste are here indefinitely. This will not only be costly, but is terrifying, as storm surges, severe storms and the sea level is rising at a previously unimaginable rate, and there is no plan or place to more the waste.

Hearings are to be held every 3 years and this has not been the case. There were 4 years between 2016 and 2020. The Public largely remains in the dark.

With delays and rising costs of Decommissioning and storage, it seems unlikely that there will be any unused money will be returned to the costumer.

Any additional Money needed must be raised by administrative pay cuts and Investments made by SCE.

Alice McNally

Del Mar, CA 92014

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Best Regards,
*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)

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**From:** Manuel Camargo
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2024 2:27 PM
**To:** Alice McNally
**Cc:** Daniel T. Stetson
**Subject:** RE: (External): Re: Had to leave meeting early - Draft Response for Review

Alice,

Per your request, attached is your letter regarding SONGS with responses from the team at SCE. Your original letter also is attached for reference.

As Dan states in his email, the topics in your letter were addressed during the CEP meeting on Nov. 7. More information on that public meeting including a full recording is available at CEP Regular Meeting: Understanding Funds Related to SONGS Decommissioning | SONGS.

Sincerely,

Manuel C. Camargo Jr.
Principal Manager, Strategic Planning
Southern California Edison | SONGS Decommissioning
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**From:** Daniel T. Stetson
**Sent:** Thursday, November 7, 2024 10:06 PM
**To:** Alice McNally
**Cc:** Manuel Camargo

**Subject:** (External): Re: Had to leave meeting early

Alice,
Sorry you had to leave early.
Will do. They were also addressed during the meeting.
Dan

> On Nov 7, 2024, at 6:16 PM, Alice McNally wrote:
>
> Please have Manuel Camargo email me answers to my questions on my submitted letter
> Alice McNally
> Sent from my iPhone

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Community Engagement Panel, Dan Stetson et al,

One third of the fully funded SONGS decommissioning fund, of 4.4 billion dollars plus, has been paid into by customers and we continue to be billed each month. Edison is a monopoly so we have had no other choice. The COST of DECOMMISSIONING SONGS was originally estimated at $4.7 billion.
This is incorrect; the CPUC approved SCE's request to end customer contributions to the nuclear decommissioning trusts in 2016. What appears on customer's bills at this time is the cost to store SONGS Unit 1 spent nuclear fuel located at a storage facility in Morris, Illinois. However, customers have been reimbursed for this cost through payments by the US Department of Energy.

Never the less, in 2020 the CPUC awarded SONGS $461million dollars, in new money, to cover the same steps estimated to cost $166 million in 2017. This is just short of 3 times what was predicted. Edison has repeatedly asked for more money, sighting delays contributing to higher costs.
In any given year, actual decommissioning costs can differ, sometimes significantly, from the forecasted decommissioning costs for that year. The primary reason that actual and forecasted costs differ is that decommissioning activities may not occur on the same timeline as scheduled. However, looking at the decommissioning project as a whole, over the life of the project, anticipated costs have generally remained constant. For example, the 2017 DCE estimated total decommissioning costs for Units 2&3 would be $4.5 billion and the 2020 DCE estimated they would be $4.7 billion.

With regard to 2020 decommissioning costs, in December of 2019, SCE submitted a request to the CPUC to withdraw funds from the SONGS Units 2&3 trusts for its share of 2020 forecasted expenditures. The $461 million represents the 100% share (for all co-owners) in 2014$ that SCE anticipated spending in 2020. This was not new money but simply a request to access a portion of the funds already in the trusts.

As SCE explained in its request to the CPUC, the $166 million was the value forecasted in the 2017 DCE for calendar year 2020 expenditures. The difference between the $166 million and the $461 million occurred primarily due to the regulatory delays SCE experienced in obtaining certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report and approval of the Coastal Development Permit needed to allow dismantling to begin. In addition, SCE experienced delays due to the suspension of fuel transfer operations following the 2018 canister downloading event. The cash flows for these activities were deferred from prior years to 2020.

Customers will also pay for the power they buy from the other plants while San Onofre is offline and is estimated to cost about $1/1 billion over five years. In 2015 consumer cost were predicted to be $10.4 billion.
SCE's analysis shows that the decommissioning trusts do not need additional customer contributions, meaning that customers are not currently paying for SONGS decommissioning costs as well as for any costs for SONGS replacement power.

Meanwhile Isotopes, cesium 137, cobalt 60 and Tritium have been found in the ground water at SONGS. This will certainly cause a major delay and is questionable if it can ever be cleaned up. Please discuss this today.
Tritium (H-3) has been detected in ground water monitoring wells located on the western side of Unit 2. Groundwater at SONGS and the region around SONGS is not a source of drinking water and the levels of tritium detected are below the EPA regulatory limit for drinking water (20,000 pCi/l). No other

radionuclides were detected. Although not required by regulations, on 9/5/24 SCE initiated a voluntary communication to inform State and Local agencies and key stakeholders.

The tritium was initially detected in monitoring well PA-2. Supplemental sampling of well MW-8 also detected H-3. SCE increased sampling of PA-2 and MW-8 (once every two weeks) and has engaged a hydrogeologist to assess the extent of H-3 contamination. Sampling of additional wells is in progress to help determine extent of condition and source. The groundwater (GW) flows from east to west across the site with an estimated GW flow rate varies from 9 to 94 feet per year. Two groundwater monitoring systems are installed at SONGS; 1. radiological monitoring and 2. non-radiological monitoring. SCE plans to continue to provide updates during CEP meetings. A link to the 4Q 2024 CEP meeting on November 7, is provided here. To learn more about tritium, check out our new webpage here. This matter is not expected to delay the current phase of decommissioning.

The IAEA stays that the decommissioning process usually takes around 15-20 years.
The 1800 tons of stranded Nuclear Waste are here indefinitely. This will not only be costly, but is terrifying, as storm surges, severe storms and the sea level is rising at a previously unimaginable rate, and there is no plan or place to more the waste.
Sea-level rise and storm surge were addressed during our 1Q 2024 CEP meeting on March 7. The presentation, video and transcript are available at songscommunity.com. A direct link is provided here. Per the Sea Level Rise Impact Report, the revetment (aka "riprap") is in good condition and able withstand H++ SLR through at least 2050. Even considering H++ SLR scenario, the Holtec ISFSI support foundation remains above the water table through 2050. Per the Ocean Protection Council 2024 Sea Level Rise Guidance, there is greater certainty and a narrowing range of the amount of sea level rise in the next 30 years. Statewide, sea levels are most likely to rise 0.8 ft (Intermediate Scenario) by 2050. By 2100, statewide sea levels are most likely to rise between 1.6 ft and 3.1 ft (Int-Low to Intermediate Scenarios), although higher amounts cannot be ruled out. And the extreme sea level rise scenario (i.e., H++) from Rising Seas 2017 is much higher than best available science suggests.

SCE has a plan to move the spent fuel. SCE is implementing the Strategic Plan for the off-site relocation of SONGS spent nuclear fuel that was released in 2021. CEP meetings include updates from the Spent Fuel Solutions coalition co-chairs; San Diego County Supervisor Jim Desmond (District 5) and Orange County Supervisor, Katrina Foley (District 5). During the 2Q 2024 CEP meeting on June 13, guest speaker Paul Murray, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition at the US Department of Energy, provided a briefing on the past, present, and future of the federal spent fuel management program.

SCE is encouraged by the DOE's work on consent-based siting for federal consolidated interim storage facilities. SCE also applauds the leadership of Rep. Mike Levin for introducing the Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2024 which could provide for a more durable federal spent fuel management program that includes both near-term interim storage and long-term disposal of spent fuel. On Nov. 21, the SONGS CEP and SFS coalition will co-host a webinar featuring Rep. Levin discussing the draft bill.

Hearings are to be held every 3 years and this has not been the case. There were 4 years between 2016 and 2020. The Public largely remains in the dark.
CPUC hearings, including a Public Participation Hearing, were held in January of 2023. The CPUC requires that estimated decommissioning costs be reviewed every three years.

With delays and rising costs of Decommissioning and storage, it seems unlikely that there will be any unused money will be returned to the costumer.
It is too early to speculate as to whether there will be unused money that can be returned to customers. Whatever unused funds are available at the end of decommissioning will be returned to customers in 2053.

Any additional money needed must be raised by administrative pay cuts and Investments made by SCE.
The CPUC reviews SCE's trust fund analysis on a periodic basis and makes a determination of whether additional customer contributions are needed. Again, SCE's current analysis shows that additional contributions from customers are not required.

Alice McNally
Del Mar, CA 92014
[redacted]

## 3. For Awareness: Response to Charles Langley re: Portable Hot Cell at SONGS

On Wed, Nov 6, 2024 at 1:00 PM Dan Stetson wrote:

Hi Charles,

No, the "mobile hot cell" concept in the INL story is designed for smaller sources such as those used in radiography and is too small for ~16-foot-tall x 6-foot-wide spent fuel canisters.

The NRC's Generic EIS for Continued Storage of Spent Fuel (GEIS) (NUREG-2157) assumes spent fuel canisters and casks would be replaced approximately once every 100 years. Because SONGS canisters were placed into dry storage beginning in 2003, this corresponds to a potential need for a DTS in 2103

SCE plans for the canisters to be moved to either consolidated interim storage or a deep geologic repository in advance of that timeframe. As you know, DOE is pursuing consent-based siting for consolidated interim storage facilities and targeting operational CIS in the mid- to late-2030s. Also, the team at SCE is advocating for changes to federal policy that can provide for a more durable federal spent fuel management program with both near-term CIS and long-term deep geologic repositories for spent fuel.

Construction and operation of a DTS is not anticipated to be required at SONGS, and SCE has no current plans to construct a DTS at SONGS.

I am off to DC next week to meet with folks from across the country to discuss the Consent Based Siting strategy.

Dan
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**From:** Charles Langley
**Date:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 5:52 PM
**To:** Daniel Stetson
**Cc:** Nina Babiarz
**Subject:** "portable hot cell"
Dan,

Do you know if this "portable hot cell" concept could work at SONGS in the event it is needed?
https://inl.gov/feature-story/first-of-a-kind-technology-inl-demonstrates-mobile-hot-cell-for-radioactive-source-recovery/

Charles Langley, Executive Director
Public Watchdogs
www.publicwatchdogs.org

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## 4. For Awareness: SFS Coalition & SONGS CEP Host Webinar Nov. 21, 2024, with Rep. Mike Levin to Discuss Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2024

**From:** Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 11:45 AM
**To:** Dan Stetson; VictorCabral; 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; Kelvin Barrios; Alyssa Napuri; Kristal Jabara; John Gabbard; Mark Enmeier; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz
**Cc:** Manuel Camargo
**Subject:** For Awareness: Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition & SONGS Community Engagement Panel Host Webinar Nov. 21 with Representative Mike Levin (D-CA) to Discuss the Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2024 - Save-the-Date!

Dear CEP Member and Alternates,

The Spent Fuel Solutions coalition and the SONGS Community Engagement Panel are hosting a joint meeting with Representative Mike Levin (D-CA), who will discuss the Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2024. Details are provided below. We hope you can join us.




**SAVE THE DATE!**

Join Spent Fuel Solutions and the SONGS Community Engagement Panel (CEP) for an interactive discussion with Representative Mike Levin (D-CA), who recently introduced the Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2024 with

Representative August Pfluger (R-TX). This proposed legislation aims to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to help secure offsite storage and disposal solutions for the spent fuel stranded in 34 states across the nation.

**When:** Thursday, November 21
9:30 a.m. Pacific time

**How to Join:**

**Where:** https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83961423779
**By Telephone:** +16694449171
**Webinar ID:** 839 6142 3779

To RSVP or submit questions, please email us at info@spentfuelsolutionsnow.com.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## ABOUT THE COALITION

Spent Fuel Solutions is a group of local governments, elected officials, utilities, environmental groups, labor leaders, Native American leaders, business organizations and other community members who support the relocation of spent nuclear fuel to a federally licensed facility.

## ABOUT THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PANEL

The Community Engagement Panel was convened by the SONGS co-owners as a volunteer, non-regulatory body to foster open communication, public involvement, and education on SONGS decommissioning activities.

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**Our mailing address is:**
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## 5. For Awareness: December 2 CEP Member Consultation Meeting Feedback

**From:** Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2024 10:00 AM
**To:** Dan Stetson; VictorCabral; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Katrina Foley; Rob Howard; 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: December 2 CEP Member Consultation Meeting Feedback

Dear CEP Members and Alternates,

Thank you for attending the December 2 CEP Member Consultation hybrid meeting. We received a lot of great feedback from you all on ways to improve future meetings such as shortening meetings to two
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hours and focusing on topics of greatest interest to the community and spent fuel in particular. We also appreciate your request to make the Q&A and facilitated public comment period more efficient. We plan to incorporate your feedback into the 2025 meetings and will provide a report out at the 1Q 2025 meeting.

During the member meeting, we also received a question regarding the number of railcar shipment to date. There have been 1,670 railcar shipments to date, which is approximately 30% of the estimated total shipments for the decommissioning project. The total waste is 400 million pounds to date, which is approximately 36% of the estimated total waste for the project.

Thanks again for your continued interest, engagement, and recommendations for our CEP.

Best Regards,
*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)

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## 6. For Awareness: Keystone (DOE Consent Based Siting Consortia Organization is Planning a Regional Workshop in March to Gather Feedback from CEP and Community Members

**From:** Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 4:35 PM
**To:** Dan Stetson; Val Macedo; Marni Magda; Michael Parham; Mel Vernon; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Katrina Foley
**Cc:** Manuel Camargo; Roy Payne; Jessica Luternauer; Kristal Jabara; Alyssa Napuri
**Subject:** For Awareness: Keystone (DOE Consent-Based Siting Consortia Organization) is Planning a San Onofre Regional Workshop in late March to Gather Feedback from SONGS CEP and Community Members

Dear CEP Members,

Recall that the Department of Energy funded consortia to support its consent-based siting efforts for federal CIS facilities. One of the consortia is Keystone, which is focused on how to constructively engage with communities on big and complex issues, and how to come to collective community decisions.

Keystone believes the years long community learning from San Onofre CEP members can provide invaluable insight into developing a process that treats potential host communities for a spent nuclear fuel facility with dignity and in a just manner and reached out to SONGS requesting recommendations for participants in their San Onofre regional workshop, which will be scheduled in late March 2025.
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SCE and Spent Fuel Solutions are assisting Keystone with their efforts in support of the DOE's ongoing plans to identify a consent-based site for the storage of spent nuclear fuel. Keystone is planning parallel workshops with Diablo Canyon and the community panels of decommissioned sites in New England, all of whom have similar experience as the community around San Onofre.

You will be receiving a separate email invitation from Roy Payne. We hope you can join us.

Best Regards,
*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)

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## 7. For Awareness: Energy Communities Alliance Press Release – ECA Awards Five New Community Grants

**From:** Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 11:41 AM
**To:** Dan Stetson; VictorCabral; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Katrin Foley; Rob Howard; Scott Kibbey; Val Macedo; Marni Magda; Michael Parham; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael Villar; Kelvin Barrios; Alyssa Napuri; Mark Enmeier; Kristal Jabara; John Gabbard; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz
**Cc:** Manuel Camargo
**Subject:** For Awareness: Energy Communities Alliance Press Release - ECA AWARDS FIVE NEW COMMUNITY GRANTS

Dear CEP Members and Alternates,

Some interesting news out of ECA, one of the DOE consortia, for your awareness.

ECA Energy Communities Alliance
Local concerns. National impact.
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# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

**Faith Sanchez, Deputy Director of Policy**

**faiths@energyca.org**; 202-828-2410

## ECA CONSENT-BASED SITING CONSORTIA AWARDS FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DISCUSSIONS ON NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT

### *Local Governments Across the Country to Build Outreach and Engagement Initiatives*

**WASHINGTON** – The Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) has awarded grants to five local community entities – the **Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC)**; **Butte County, Idaho**; the **Carlsbad Department of Development (CDOD)**; **the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee**; and **Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR)** – to develop avenues for inclusive public engagement, education, and discussions of consent-based siting approaches.

Each grant recipient will receive funding of $75,000 for a period of performance of up to twelve (12) months. See more on the winning proposals below:

- **Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado (AGNC)**

AGNC will begin their second phase of community outreach efforts to assist the transition away from coal towards clean and sustainable energy. AGNC will create a network of stakeholders from across the Rocky Mountain region that will help develop education, knowledge exchange

and mutual learning; utilizing surveys, focus groups, and interviews to engage community members in discussions about the potential siting of an interim storage facility.

- **Butte County, Idaho**

Working closely with countries who have been successful in gaining public support, Butte County will create an education and outreach program using social media, community workshops, surveys, briefings, and informational materials, to foster an inclusive community and regional dialogue around nuclear waste management.

- **Carlsbad Department of Development (CDOD)**

The CDOD will convene community members, key stakeholders, and experts in a dialogue around consent-based siting. The CDOD will produce reports, and develop educational materials related to consent-based siting approaches, assessing local/regional concerns, and addressing how they can be mitigated

- **City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee**

The City of Oak Ridge will focus on assessing local capacity for public safety and emergency response in the context of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's requirements for licensing an ISFSI. This project will access the needs and requirements potential host communities need to be successful in potentially hosting an ISFSI.

- **Shaping our Appalachian Region (SOAR)**

As part of efforts to support Eastern Kentucky communities in addressing the natural decline of the coal industry, SOAR will engage key community leaders to facilitate open dialogues about identifying and advancing opportunities to fill this gap. SOAR aims to foster collaboration with leaders at all levels of government in the region to create a unified state-level presentation focused on generating jobs and driving economic impact through sustainable energy opportunities.

These awards support the two goals laid out by the ECA Consortia:

1. To build capacity in communities interested in consent-based siting and ensure they have the education, information – and informed representatives - to meaningfully engage on the issues a community will address as a potential host of a nuclear waste facility.
2. To facilitate deeper engagement and (re)create momentum by distributing resources for qualifying individual communities that demonstrate readiness to begin localized education and outreach to determine the potential for consent or to capture information that can help define the elements of consent.

ECA will continue to host broader public and regional events educate communities, industry, policymakers and concerned parties.

**###**

*Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) is a non-profit membership organization of local governments and nuclear communities adjacent to or affected by U.S. Department of Energy activities. The mission of ECA is to bring together local government officials to share information, establish policy positions, and promote community interests to address an increasingly complex set of environmental, regulatory, and economic development needs. Additional information is available at [www.energyca.org](http://www.energyca.org).*

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USA

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*Lorraine Sandstrom*

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

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## 8. For Awareness: Teri Sforza Article in OC Register – "Should Feds Crash a Nuclear Waste Transport Pack to Gain Your Trust?"

**From:** Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2025 4:21 PM
**To:** Dan Stetson; VictorCabral; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Katrina Foley; Rob Howard; Whitley CIV Daniel M; Scott Kibbey; Val Macedo; Marni Magda; Lisa A. Davis; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael Villar; Alyssa Napuri; Mark Enmeier; Kristal Jabara; John Gabbard; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz; Kelvin Barrios
**Cc:** Manuel Camargo
**Subject:** For Awareness: Teri Sforza Article in OC Register - "Should Feds Crash a Nuclear Waste Transport Pack to Gain Your Trust?"

Dear CEP Members and Alternates,

For awareness, attached is an extensive story by Teri Sforza (OC Register), regarding the DOE's Package Performance Demonstration Project and its recent December 17 informational webinar. Sforza covers a significant amount of information about DOE's program and encourages the public to respond to the DOE's request for feedback. SONGS is cited in the story as an example of a site whose used fuel would be transported by the rail system.

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

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**Should feds crash a nuclear waste transport pack to gain your trust?**

Column: Demonstration project aims to showcase the safety of transporting highly radioactive waste. Few serious accidents have occurred



Public demonstration test image from “Going the Distance? The Safe Transport of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste in the United States,” The National Academies Press, Washington, D.C. 2006. (U.S. Department of Energy)



By **Teri Sforza** | tsforza@scng.com | Orange County Register

UPDATED: January 20, 2025 at 3:08 PM PST

Welcome to the “Let’s Blow Up A Transportation Overpack for Nuclear Waste” show!

This show is in development by the U.S. Department of Energy, has a budget of about $10 million, and aims to ease the fears of a public that has grown increasingly hostile to official expertise (not to mention suspicious of basic science).

Weigh in folks: Should the heavy transit overpacks that shield radioactive waste be smashed into walls? Hit by trains? Dropped from on high? Immersed in deep water? Burned at high temperatures? A combination of these — all at once?

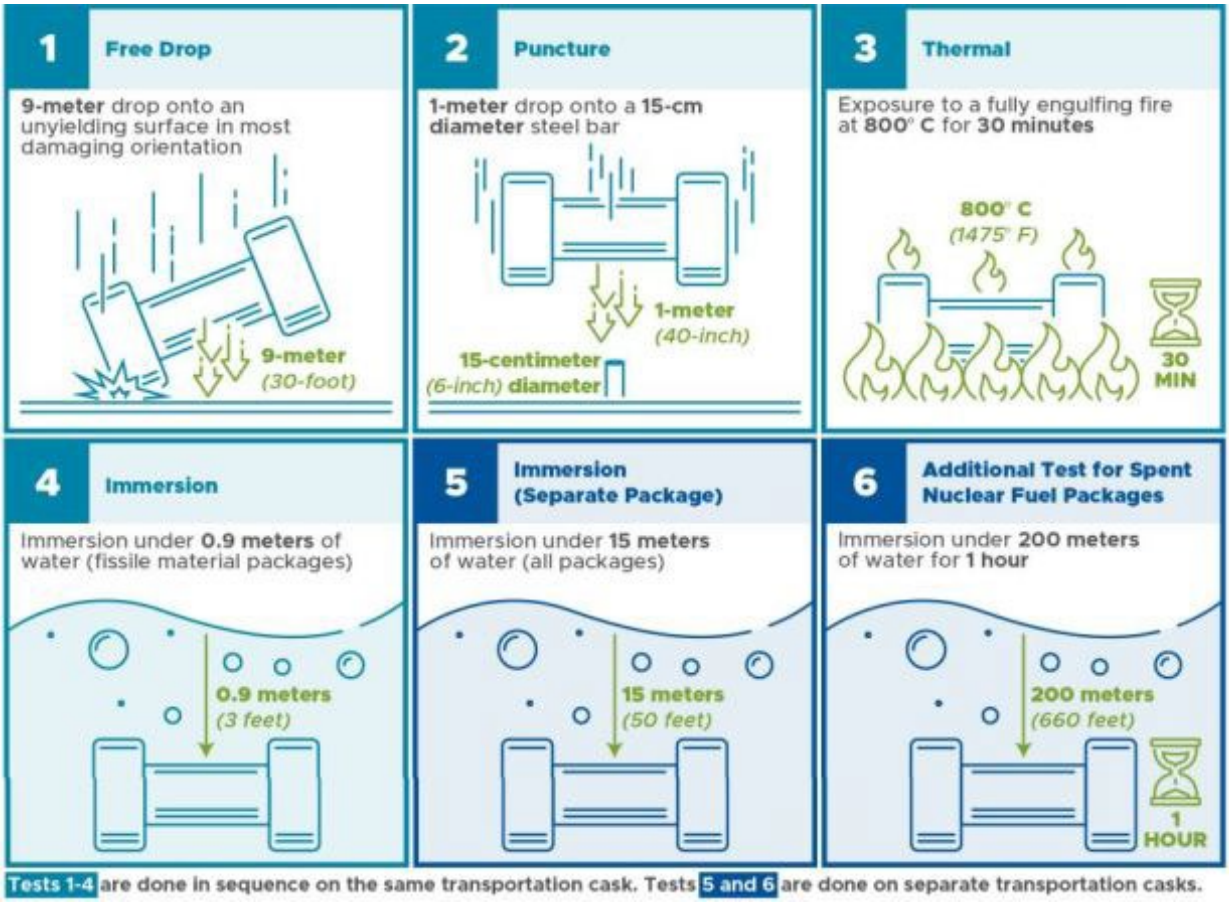



U.S. Department of Energy

“Our aim is to build public trust and confidence,” said Miriam Juckett, an advisor on spent nuclear fuel management with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, acknowledging public skepticism during an online meeting Jan. 8. “The DOE is listening.”

Turns out that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s process for certifying these behemoths — which will someday encase waste from San Onofre, Diablo Canyon and scores of other nuclear plants as locals finally wave goodbye — is highly technical and a bit beyond the public gaze.

So, the Package Performance Demonstration project, as it's officially called, aims to publicly showcase the safety and resiliency of these NRC-sanctioned overpacks, thus easing worried minds. It's not exactly a cheap exercise, Juckett said, but DOE is willing to make the investment.



U.S. Department of Energy

What would make a test credible to you? Poke around the website at https://curie.pnnl.gov/DOE-PPD and tell the PowersThatBe what mayhem you'd like to see by sending an email to DOE-PPD@id.doe.gov. Comments must be received by Jan. 31.

**No terrorism**

Will this make a difference with the most devout skeptics?

Public test scenarios will not include terrorism or sabotage, Juckett said. DOE understands that those are important, but it would not be able to share information gleaned from such tests with the public, and the goal here is to be open and transparent.

Demonstrations will not subject overpacks to more severe conditions than they were designed to withstand.



U.S. Department of Energy

And, of course, the waste canisters inside the overpacks will not contain real spent fuel — but they'll replicate actual loaded conditions in terms of weight and other variables.

Demonstration tests will likely be live-streamed, results will be measurable and data will be shared with the public, Juckett said.

"If we can answer people's concerns about how they'll perform, if we can help first responders and community leaders feel confident about how these work, they can share that with their communities," she said.

That familiarity will be helpful when someday, if we're smart and lucky, the United States has a centralized place to park the hundreds of millions of pounds of highly radioactive nuclear waste piling up at scores of commercial reactor sites around the country. The waste will leave plants like San Onofre and Diablo Canyon by specially-designed trains like the Atlas rail car, or by truck, or by barge, en route to its new home.



*Atlas SNF railcar with test weights on test track.*

Atlas rail car, specially designed to transport spent nuclear fuel (U.S. Department of Energy)

Many Southern Californians have expressed profound doubts about the safety of transporting radioactive waste, however. At San Onofre Community Engagement Panel meetings, critics have insisted it could not be done.

Juckett tried to get in front of all that.

The nuclear program began here in the 1950s, and about 95,000 metric tons of waste are now in storage, she said. “We have a well-established regulatory framework for transporting spent nuclear fuel. … It’s important to note that, even though there’s not a destination right now, it has been moving across the U.S. for quite some time.”




U.S. Department of Energy

That's the work of the NRC and the U.S. Department of Transportation. Waste canisters are inserted into those thick, heavy, shielded overpacks, which are then loaded onto specially designed transport vehicles like the Atlas, for the move from Point A to Point B. The NRC certifies the transportation overpacks, subjecting them to physical tests and the computer-modeled varieties; the DOT sets routes and standards for the journeys; and the DOE plans to add to the knowledge base with this project.



Truck tractor-trailer with SNF shipping cask.

Demonstration project (U.S. Department of Energy)

The “Let’s Blow Up a Transportation Overpack” show is not exactly new. There have been various episodes over the past half-century in this and other countries. Four impact tests were done at Sandia National Laboratories in the 1970s. The United Kingdom’s “Operation Smash Hit” on a full-sized overpack followed suit in the 1980s. Drop tests were done in Germany in the 2000s. Vintage videos show overpacks crashing, dropping, drowning, burning.

There have been few serious mishaps linked to the transport of Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) and High-Level Waste (HLW), according to a somewhat dated review done for the DOE. (An update is available at https://curie.pnnl.gov/system/files/Connolly%20and%20Pope%20-%20Shipment%20History%202023%20-%20Final%20revised.pdf)



Locomotive impacting a tractor-trailer system.

Demonstration project (U.S. Department of Energy)

“Accidents have been infrequent in SNF and HLW transportation, and most have been minor accidents such as low-speed derailments or minor traffic accidents,” it said. “Instances of radioactive contamination on SNF and HLW casks and the vehicles that carry them have occurred more frequently than transportation accidents, but these instances were still infrequent when compared to the overall number of shipments which were made in several countries over the years.

“Contamination was found on shipments within the U.S. in the 1970s and 1980s and in Europe in the 1990s. After many studies, improvements in operating procedures at nuclear facilities, and enhanced regulatory oversight and enforcement of contamination limits, instances of radiological contamination of equipment have become less frequent.”



SNF package mounted in a railcar.

Demonstration project (U.S. Department of Energy)

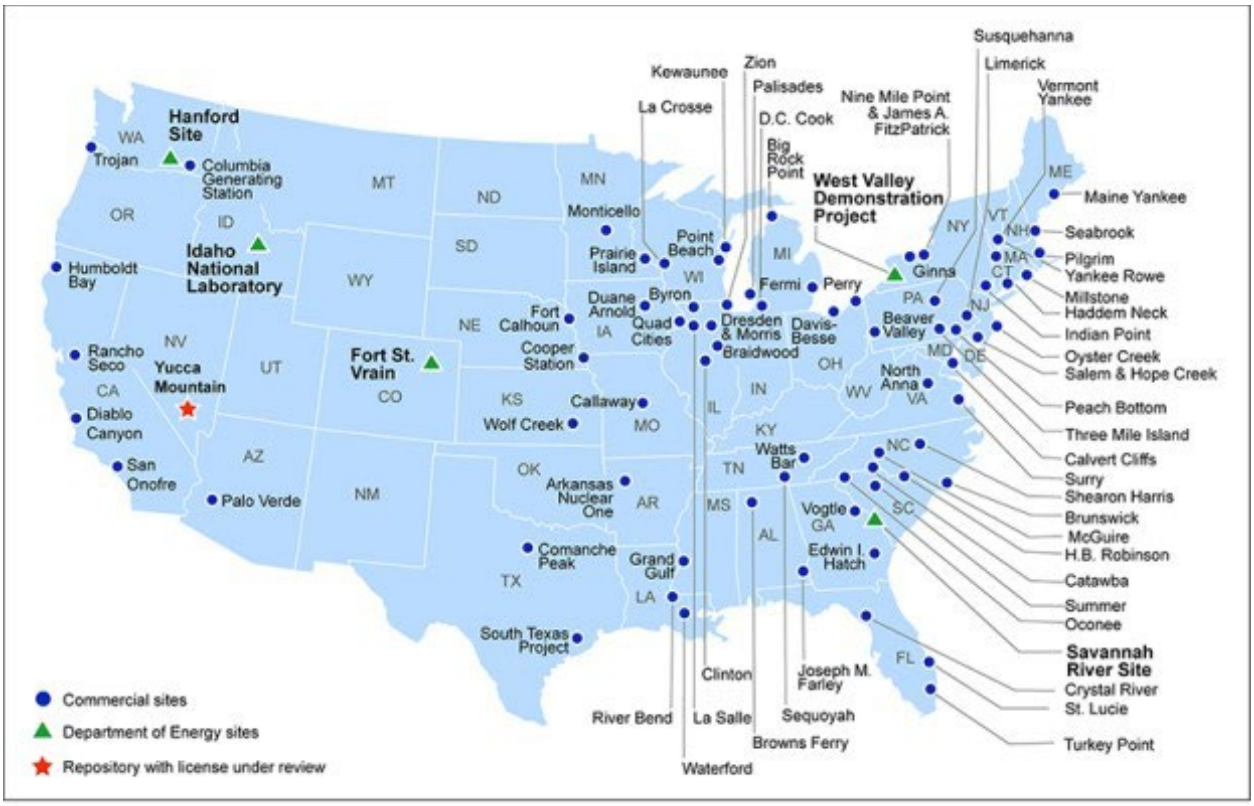
**A sampling of mishaps**

One of the most serious accidents happened in the U.S. in 1971, when a truck carrying a loaded cask veered off the road to avoid a head-on collision.

The truck left the road, the driver was killed and the cask was thrown clear off the trailer and into a ditch, the report said. The cask suffered superficial damage to two bolts, the paint and the thermal insulation, but released no radioactive material and the radioactive fuel within was undamaged, it said.

In 1978, a trailer carrying spent mixed oxide fuel buckled under the weight of the cask, but there was no damage to the cask and no release.

In 1983, a truck carrying a loaded cask was involved in an accident in which the tractor separated from its intermediate axles but remained connected to the trailer. The cask was not damaged.




Source: Department of Energy. | GAO-17-174

The U.S. Government Accountability Office's map of sites storing spent nuclear waste in the United States.

In 1987, a train carrying core debris from the Three Mile Island-2 reactor hit a car. The driver of the car was injured, the locomotive suffered minor damage, the train was delayed 45 minutes, but the casks were not damaged and did not release any material.

In 2007, the caboose and buffer car of a train carrying spent fuel derailed while moving slowly, at some 5 miles per hour.

Recently in Germany, thousands have protested such shipments, the report said. "Although there have not been any radiological effects as a result these protests, injuries have occurred, shipments have been delayed and millions of dollars in extra costs have been incurred."

We remember when people chained themselves to the heavy machinery trying to build the toll roads here in O.C. some 25 years ago, and suspect there could be similar passions aroused here. But what's the other choice? To leave it on the bluffs at the ocean in an earthquake zone near millions of people forever?

Get your thoughts in to the DOE. For the record, we'd like to see the overpack smashing into a wall at high speed. Seems like something from "Beavis and Butthead," no?

“We understand mistakes made in past with big projects,” said Juckett. “We’re looking to identify how to make this successful and avoid missteps. We want to be as open and transparent as possible.”

If all goes according to plan, the demonstration will take place in the next couple years. Getting it to a new home? With the hundreds of millions of pounds that have piled up over more than a half-century, it will take just about that long to move it, the DOE said.

**Related Articles**

- **How to save $2 million a day … and remove radioactive waste from earthquake country**

*Updated 1/20/2025 with another report link*

*Originally Published: January 19, 2025 at 7:15 AM PST*

## 9. For Awareness: Spent Fuel Solutions Webinar with Lisa Frizzell, Communications VP with Canada's Nuclear Waste Management Organization, Monday, February 24, 12:00 - 1:00 pm (PT)

**From:** Lorraine Quinn Sandstrom
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 8:49 AM
**To:** Dan Stetson; VictorCabral; Martha McNicholas; Michelle Anderson; Mike Balsamo; Garry Brown; Jim Desmond; Katrina Foley; Rob Howard; Daniel Whitley; Scott Kibbey; Val Macedo; Marni Magda; Lisa Davis; Ted Quinn; John Taylor; Mel Vernon; Michael Villar; Kelvin Barrios; Alyssa Napuri; Mark Enmeier; Kristal Jabara; John Gabbard; Mike Sappingfield; Ken Schultz
**Cc:** Manuel Camargo
**Subject:** For Awareness: Spent Fuel Solutions Webinar - Save-the-Date - Monday February 24, 12:00 - 1:00 pm (PT)

Dear CEP Members and Alternates,

For awareness, the Spent Fuel Solutions coalition is hosting a webinar on February 24, with guest speaker Lisa Frizzell, Vice President of Communications for Canada's Nuclear Waste Management Organization. We hope you can join us. Details are below.




**SAVE THE DATE**

Join Spent Fuel Solutions for an informational webinar with Lisa Frizzell, Vice President of Communications for Canada's Nuclear Waste Management Organization. Learn more about the process to identify an informed and willing

host community for the country's spent fuel repository and the recent selection of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and the Township of Ignace.

**When:** Monday, February 24
12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Pacific time

**Where:** https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86474560164
**By Telephone:** +1 669 444 9171
**Webinar ID:** 874 0727 3540

To RSVP or submit questions, please email us at **info@spentfuelsolutionsnow.com**.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## ABOUT THE COALITION

Spent Fuel Solutions is a group of local governments, elected officials, utilities, environmental groups, labor leaders, Native American leaders, business organizations and other community members who support the relocation of spent nuclear fuel to a federally licensed facility.

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**Our mailing address is:**
Spent Fuel Solutions · PO Box 431 · San Luis Rey, CA 92068 · USA

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

Best Regards,
*Lorraine Sandstrom*
Community Affairs and Relations, Senior Specialist
Community Engagement Panel (CEP) Management and Stakeholder Engagement (DA Complex B)
Southern California Edison, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS)

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## 10. For Awareness: CEP Letter to Christopher Wright, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy

**From:** Dan Stetson
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 5, 2025 8:06:26 PM
**To:** the.secretary@hq.doe.gov
**Cc:** Martha McNicholas; VictorCabral
**Subject:** (External):San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Community Engagement Panel
To Whom it may concern:

I would be most appreciative if you could forward the attached letter to the Honorable Christoper A. Wright.

Sincere thanks,

Daniel T. Stetson
Chairman
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
Community Engagement Panel

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SAN ONOFRE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PANEL

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Christopher A. Wright
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington DC 20585

Dear Secretary Wright,

Our congratulations to you on your confirmation as Secretary of Energy. As stakeholders in one of the US communities with stranded spent nuclear fuel, we look forward to working with you and your DOE team to solve our country's spent fuel problem. It has been more than 40 years since Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and 27 years since the DOE was legally and contractually required to begin picking up and disposing of spent fuel from commercial nuclear sites. Stemming the waste is vital, as further inaction will burden US taxpayers with remaining financial liabilities estimated at $37.6 to $44.5 billion for spent fuel (and high level waste).

All this even though nuclear utility customers pre-paid for disposal with, to date, nearly $50 billion accrued in the Nuclear Waste Fund. We are encouraged by the new Administration's focus on government efficiency, DOE's work on consolidated interim storage (CIS), and the bipartisan Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2024 (NWAA of 2024) that was introduced in September.

The NWAA of 2024 is generally aligned with policy principles that can amend federal law to facilitate a more durable spent fuel management program that includes both near-term CIS and a long-term deep geologic repository (DGR). Our policy principles call for:

- reliable funding to support continuity,
- a DGR siting program centered on collaboration without limitation to any one site, and
- revising the linkage between CIS and a DGR to allow for near-term CIS and thereby stem judgments that, at present, cost US taxpayers approximately $2 million per day.

We, the volunteer leaders of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Community Engagement Panel (CEP), are committed to advocating for policy reform. If you have questions, please contact CEP Chairman Dan Stetson at 949-338-9611.

Sincerely,

Daniel Stetson

Dan Stetson
CEP Chairman
Trustee and Executive Director
The Nicholas Endowment

Victor Cabral
CEP Vice Chairman
Mayor
City of San Clemente

Martha McNicholas

Martha McNicholas
CEP Secretary
Community Member