Community Engagement Panel Meeting
SONGS Spent Fuel: Onsite Storage and Initiative to Relocate Offsite
Thursday, October 16, 2025, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. (PT) at the Casino San Clemente and via Microsoft Teams
Meeting Minutes

1) Community Engagement Panel (CEP) member attendance:

1) Present: Dan Stetson (CEP Chairman/Trustee-Executive Director, Nicholas Endowment), Hon. Victor Cabral (CEP Vice Chairman/San Clemente Council Member), 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. John Taylor (San Juan Capistrano City Council), Garry Brown (Orange County Coastkeeper), Captain Mel Vernon (San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians), Hunter McDonald (alternate for Hon. Jim Desmond, San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District), Scott Kibbey (California State Parks, South Sector Superintendent), Rob Howard (City of Oceanside Representative), Hon. Michael Villar (Dana Point City Council), Abby Paulson, (alternate for Katrina Foley, Orange County Supervisor, 5th District and Spent Fuel Solutions coalition Co-chair), and Kelvin Barrios (alternate for Val Macedo, Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 89)
2) Absent: Valentine "Val" Macedo (Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 89), Lisa Davis, (President, Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees), Ted Quinn (American Nuclear Society), Mike Balsamo (Sr. VP, Government Relations Rancho Mission Viejo and South Orange County Economic Coalition Board Member), Marni Magda (Sierra Club), Daniel Whitley (Camp Pendleton Community Plans and Liaison Officer), and Hon. Katrina Foley, (Orange County Supervisor, 5th District and Spent Fuel Solutions coalition Co-Chair)
3) SCE Representatives: Fred Bailly (SCE Vice President of Generation and Chief Nuclear Officer), Manuel Camargo, Strategic Planning and Stakeholder Engagement Principal Manager, Jerry Stephenson, Engineering Manager
4) Guest Speakers: Dr. James Burns, Materials Scientist and Professor, University of Virginia

2) Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams convened by Chairman Stetson at 5:30 p.m.

NOTE: VIDEO OF THIS MEETING, SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS, AND A TRANSCRIPT ARE AVAILABLE HERE; THIS DOCUMENT PROVIDES A SUMMARY

The seminar focused on SCE's efforts to provide for the safe onsite storage of spent nuclear fuel, the role of canister inspections, and how inspections have confirmed canisters remain in good condition. After a challenge by the CEP on Aug. 28 to release all inspection photographs, SCE agreed to do so, making more than 1,700 images available on the SONGS website. The seminar also highlighted SCE's initiative to clear San Onofre of spent fuel.

A comprehensive discussion covered a defense-in-depth strategy for onsite storage including design, fabrication, operations, inspections, and repair. During a deep dive on inspections, an SCE engineer reviewed dozens of canister images and explained areas of interest including buffing and fabrication marks, dust, stains, rub marks, scratches, and streaking from dried rainwater. Third party expert Dr. James Burns – whose award-winning work has been recognized by NASA and the federal government – provided background on corrosion and an independent assessment that no canister images show evidence of corrosion.

In the event canister repair is ever needed in the coming years and decades, SCE has a metallic overlay repair method at the ready. At the same time, it was explained that safety scenarios have been rigorously analyzed under NRC regulations and industry programs, and there are no credible accidents at SONGS that result in an offsite release of radiological material.

SCE assured the CEP and members of the public that the spent fuel is actively monitored and safely stored. Still, the CEP has asked for updates on future inspections, the next of which will take place in late 2026.

The CEP discussion covered the federal government's failure to comply with its legal and contractual obligations related to spent fuel which have resulted in the need for onsite storage. SCE released the "Strategic Plan for the Relocation of SONGS Spent Nuclear Fuel to a Federal Storage or Disposal Facility" in 2021. At that same time, SCE teamed with local governments to form the Spent Fuel Solutions coalition that supports efforts to clear all US plant sites of spent fuel including SONGS. Coalition Co-Chairs, San Diego County Supervisor Jim Desmond and Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley, were recognized for their leadership.

3) Shareables

- See for yourself all images from spent fuel inspections at SONGS
- Learn about inspection and maintenance of the spent fuel storage systems
- Join the Spent Fuel Solutions coalition and support efforts to clear San Onofre of spent fuel
- Request a SONGS walking tour
- Get informed by exploring www.SONGScommunity.com

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

a) The following individuals participated in the public comment period:
   i) Alice McNally (Coalition for Nuclear Safety) – asked to move SNF to higher ground
   ii) Gary Headrick (San Clemente Green) – condition of canisters, how long will they last
   iii) Nina Babiarz (Public Watchdogs) – spent fuel storage funding
   iv) Daryl (last name not provided) – nuclear waste needs to move ASAP
   v) Stephen Sharma – Can the site be used for future nuclear fusion plant?

5) Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.