



SONGS Community Engagement Panel Meeting

Update on SONGS Emergency Preparedness and Offsite Support
12 June 2025

Key Takeaways

Emergency response professionals from SCE, Orange County Emergency Management, and the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services provided an overview of emergency preparedness for SONGS. There are no credible accident scenarios that can result in an offsite release of radiological material now that all spent nuclear fuel is in passive dry storage. Still, a robust emergency plan remains in place with support from local and state agencies.

SCE staff provided an update on seismic safety after the recent earthquake in Julian, CA. The earthquake released energy – ground acceleration – some 100 times less than the design basis for the onsite dry cask storage facility which was inspected with no damage was found.

An SCE engineer discussed the technology used to identify and measure the depth of scratches on spent fuel canisters in the Holtec storage system as part of an aging management program. A high-resolution camera can accurately measure surface indications as minute as 1/1000th inch deep. Images were shared from inspections of a canister that earlier was conservatively measured to have the deepest scratch on a SONGS canister, now known to be 11/1000^{ths} inch deep. American Society of Mechanical Engineers Section III calls for mitigation of scratches of 62/100^{ths} inch or more deep. Plus, SCE added 125/1000^{ths} of an inch of margin by requiring thicker canister shells. No canister at SONGS has scratches deep enough to require mitigation. Canister inspections will take place again in 2027 and 2029.

The CEP received an update on tritium in groundwater beneath Unit 2. When discovered last year, tritium was below levels allowable for drinking water although water beneath the site is not a source of drinking water. Tritium concentrations are trending toward non-detectable.

The CEP viewed a video from a recent hearing of the House Appropriations Committee. An exchange among Energy Secretary Chris Wright, Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA), and Rep. Chuck Fleishmann (R-TN) displayed bipartisan interest in assuring adequate funding for the US Department of Energy to advance the federal spent fuel management program.

There was a brief discussion about the selection of Trestles Beach for the [LA28](#) Olympic Games surfing competition. A world-renowned surf break and no stranger to international surf competition, Trestles is located within the San Onofre State Park, adjacent to the SONGS site.

The current phase of decommissioning is on track for completion by the end of 2028.

Shareables

- [Register](#) for a webinar on a DOE spent fuel transportation demonstration project
- Familiarize yourself with [emergency preparedness for SONGS](#)
- [Learn about the inspection and maintenance](#) of spent fuel canisters
- Read California State Parks' [news release](#) about Olympic surfing coming to San Onofre
- Request a SONGS [walking tour](#) and learn more by visiting www.SONGScommunity.com