

Community Engagement Panel Meeting
SONGS Dismantlement Update by San Onofre Decommissioning Solutions

Thursday, August 28, 2025, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. (PT) 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), Daniel Whitley (Camp Pendleton Community Plans and Liaison Officer), Hon. John Taylor (San Juan Capistrano City Council), Garry Brown (Orange County Coastkeeper), Ted Quinn (American Nuclear Society), Scott Kibbey (California State Parks, South Sector Superintendent), Hunter McDonald (alternate for Hon. Jim Desmond, San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District), 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: Hon. Michael Villar (Dana Point City Council), Rob Howard (City of Oceanside Representative), Valentine "Val" Macedo (Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 89), Lisa Davis, (President, Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees), Captain Mel Vernon (San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians), Mike Balsamo (Sr. VP, Government Relations Rancho Mission Viejo and South Orange County Economic Coalition Board Member), Marni Magda (Sierra Club), Hon. Jim Desmond, (San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District and Spent Fuel Solutions coalition Co-chair), 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 SONGS Chief Nuclear Officer), Michael Bryson, SCE ISFSI Engineer, and Ron Pontes (SCE Environmental, Waste and Radiation Protection Manager)
- 4) Guest Speakers: Joe Nowak, San Onofre Decommissioning Solution (SDS) Executive Sponsor and Michelle Anderson, (Director of Emergency Management Division, Orange County Sheriff's Dept.)

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

- 3) **Opening Comments:** Stetson welcomed panel members and meeting participants to the third quarter meeting of 2025. Stetson reminded everyone that the new meeting format included a "Read Only" appendix at the back of the presentation, which contains the Spent Fuel Solutions coalition update. Stetson reviewed the agenda topics, introduced presenters, and welcomed questions related to the agenda and appendix topics during the public comment period.
- 4) Bailly added that SCE would be happy to discuss topics from the meeting agenda and the appendix. He thanked Joe Nowak for taking time out of his busy schedule to provide the dismantlement update. Bailly also provided several SCE updates.

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On Monday, July 21, SCE had a loss of offsite power which interrupted work until repairs were completed. He explained that the diesel generator for the ISFSI did its job, and the spent fuel was not affected, which is by design. SCE made repairs and improvements to the electrical power at the station.

On Thursday, August 7, a portion of the gunite covering a bluff gave way, causing dirt and debris to slide on to the north access road. Bailly reported that no one was hurt. Two parked vehicles were damaged. The area was safely maintained, preliminary inspections to verify the extent of condition for similar areas throughout the site were completed, the bluffs beyond the immediate area were found to be in acceptable condition, and the cause is being investigated by experts before repairs will begin.

Bailly added that Michael Bryson would share information about SONGS being considered as a demonstration of the DOE's guided wave technology on a spent fuel canister and that Ron Pontes would be providing updates on tritium monitoring and periodic rip-rap repairs.

- 5) **SONGS Big Picture:** Bailly discussed SONGS decommissioning principles: safety, stewardship, and engagement, adding safety is the number one priority. SCE SONGS has not had an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recordable in the last eighteen months but had a minor injury involving a burn from welding that was a first aid and was requalified as an OSHA recordable. SCE issued a safety alert for employee awareness and to reduce the risk of these types of injuries. Bailly covered the three major work streams occurring at the plant: dismantling above ground structures, safely managing the spent fuel on site, and continuing to advocate for offsite storage and disposal of spent fuel. Bailly explained that the two containment domes are expected to be dismantled by mid-2027 and that SDS recently conducted a schedule evaluation for the remainder of the work activities, which resulted in a project completion date of February 2029. SDS is now exploring opportunities to potentially recover schedule activities to complete by year-end 2028.

Bailly discussed working with the CEP to host an educational seminar designed to help people understand how SCE provides for the safe onsite storage of spent nuclear fuel, including how canister inspections fit into the picture, and how we know the canisters are in good condition. He explained that SCE has been sharing information about canister inspections for years including twice this year, at the March and June CEP meetings. He added that canister inspections are an old topic that has been covered regularly. But interest remains and some misinformation has been circulating. He emphasized that it is important that SCE corrects the record, sets forth the facts, and provide more canister inspection images to help people understand the types of indications we have identified on spent fuel canisters. Bailly also shared that SCE will provide an update on the advocacy work related to offsite storage and disposal of spent fuel. He added that there is growing interest in new nuclear, the prospect of reprocessing here in the US, and as an extension, renewed focus on the importance of storage and disposal. The education seminar will take place on October 16, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at the Casino San Clemente and online via Microsoft Teams. Meeting material will be posted to the SONGS website approximately one week in advance and one hour will be set aside for public comment. Meeting details are available on our songscommunity.com website.

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- 6) **CEP General Community Update:** Stetson shared the list of current CEP members. He explained that Hunter McDonald, who is the new alternate for Supervisor Jim Desmond (San Diego, Fifth District) attended a SONGS briefing and toured the plant on August 12. He thanked all the CEP members and alternates for their continued support and interest in SONGS Decommissioning. Stetson also shared information regarding the upcoming CEP educational seminar scheduled for October 16, which will cover the onsite storage of spent nuclear fuel, how canister inspections support that process, and that SCE would be sharing canister inspection images.

Stetson discussed his request during the 2Q CEP meeting on June 12, to the Interjurisdictional Planning Committee (IPC) regarding inviting the City of Irvine to join. Michelle Anderson provided an update and informed the CEP members and the public that the IPC had considered Stetson's request and invited several cities to join, including the City of Irvine. The mission of the IPC is to promote nuclear power preparedness through agency coordination and integration of emergency plans.

- 7) **Dismantlement Update by San Onofre Decommissioning Solutions:** Nowak provided the SONGS dismantlement update beginning with the decommissioning and dismantlement progress map of work activities. He discussed work safety, the safety culture and management's commitments regarding safety. Adding there were zero OSHA recordables in 2024 although recently a worker sustained an OSHA recordable while welding. He emphasized that the safety metrics and culture still exceed national and demolition-sector benchmarks. Nowak provided an overview of the dismantlement activities and progress to date sharing photos of inside and out the containment buildings and photos of railcars being loaded with waste. He explained that the total project completion was currently at 84%, and is on track for year-end 2028, and recent schedule updates indicating final activities may extend into early 2029. Current work is focused on removal of large components from the containment domes and waste shipments. Nowak also discussed maintaining radiological dose goals for the workforce and environmental stewardship, which remains a focus activity as the team has been working around protected nesting gulls and performing final status surveys.

- 8) **Department of Energy (DOE) Guided Wave Technology:** Bryson explained that the DOE is currently evaluating the use of guided wave technology to monitor the condition of spent fuel storage canisters and SONGS is being considered as a test location because it is the only utility with a test canister. Guided wave technology uses low frequency ultrasound to screen large, inaccessible areas. The technology has been used in pipeline and DOE installations and it can be permanently installed for long term monitoring.

- 9) **SONGS Environmental Update:** Pontes provided an update on the SONGS Unit 2 groundwater tritium (H-3) investigation. He explained that the wells continue to show an overall declining trend in H-3 and enhanced monitoring will continue until H-3 falls below detection limits. The release appears to be a transient release vs. an on-going release. Pontes also shared that SCE had strong evidence indicating the source was from the Unit 2 Main Steam Isolation Valve (MSIV) trench. He added that remediation (extraction) would not be necessary because monitored natural attenuation

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is addressing the condition and SCE will continue to provide updates at future CEP meetings. The SONGS [2024 Annual Radioactive Effluent Report](#) includes an assessment of the tritium released across the site boundary in accordance with NRC Regulatory Guide 4.25.

Pontes also provided an update on the repair and maintenance of the SONGS beach pedestrian walkway. He explained that due to wave action over several decades, it is necessary to periodically restack the riprap to original design dimensions. The replacement of the retaining wall is needed to address rebar corrosion and concrete spalling. The work will ensure the walkway is maintained in a safe condition for pedestrians. Pontes added that the repair and maintenance of the beach walkway is planned for Q1-Q2 2026. The work involves restoration of the riprap on the northerly end of the walkway (southern end restacked in 2016) and replacement of the retaining wall along the entire length of the walkway. The anticipated duration of the project is 4 to 5 months. The walkway will be closed for approximately 4 weeks during replacement of the retaining wall. To minimize impact to beachgoers, SCE equipment movement will occur at night during beach closure hours.

10) Closing Remarks: Bailly thanked the panel members and the public for participating in the meeting and asking questions, adding that he appreciates the challenge. He explained that SCE values transparency and is working hard to provide information in a timely manner via CEP meetings, tours, and speaking engagements. He assured meeting participants that the SONGS team includes very talented professionals who work hard to demonstrate our commitment to safety, stewardship, and engagement and the same professions take these matters very seriously, whether it's related to waste shipments or the ongoing tritium assessment and mitigating actions. SCE is committed to keeping the CEP and the local communities up to date on the tritium issue and other decommissioning activities. Bailly shared the types of resources available to learn more about SONGS and urged panel members and guests to check out the decommissioning webpage at www.songscommunity.com to stay informed about the dismantlement of the plant, and where to sign up for public tours.

11) Stetson Key Takeaways:

- a) SONGS decommissioning general contractor, San Onofre Decommissioning Solutions (SDS), provided an update on its progress to date. There were zero OSHA recordables in 2024 although recently a worker sustained an OSHA recordable while welding. Still, safety metrics and culture exceed national and demolition-sector benchmarks and SDS is emphasizing proactive safety.
- b) Currently at 84%, completion of dismantlement is on track for year-end 2028, with recent updates indicating final activities may extend into early 2029. At present, work is focused on removal of large components from the containment domes and waste shipments. Environmental stewardship remains a focus as the team has been working around nesting gulls and performing final status surveys.
- c) On July 21, the site lost offsite power which interrupted work although the diesel generator for the ISFSI started promptly, and security features remained operational. On Aug. 7, a portion of

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gunite covering the bluff gave way. No one was hurt and bluffs beyond the immediate area were found to be in good condition.

- d) The US DOE is considering a demonstration project at SONGS that will use “guided wave technology” currently used on pipelines to monitor the condition of spent fuel canisters.
- e) The pedestrian walkway will undergo repairs to restack riprap (rocks) and replace the retaining wall through 2Q 2026. The seawall remains in good condition and is out of scope.
- f) The Interjurisdictional Planning Committee (IPC) that support SONGS emergency preparedness remains active, although at this stage there are no accident scenarios that result in an offsite release of radiological material. Through recent discussions with the CEP, the IPC — led by the Orange County Sheriff’s Emergency Management Division — is reaching out to other neighboring cities such as Irvine to participate in IPC meetings and receive training.
- g) A CEP educational seminar on Oct. 16 will focus on how SCE provides for the safe onsite storage of spent fuel, the role of canister inspections, and how such inspections have confirmed the canisters remain in good condition. SCE is considering the CEP request to release all inspection photos. The seminar also will highlight SCE’s efforts to clear San Onofre of spent fuel.

12) Additional information about SONGS activities:

- Details about the [CEP educational seminar](#) regarding onsite storage of spent fuel and efforts to relocate spent fuel to an offsite storage or disposal facility
- [Learn about the inspection and maintenance](#) of spent fuel canisters
- Join the [Spent Fuel Solutions](#) coalition and support efforts to clear San Onofre of spent fuel
- Learn about [emergency planning](#) during decommissioning
- Request a SONGS [walking tour](#) and learn more by visiting www.SONGScommunity.com

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

- a) The following individuals participated in the public comment period:
 - i) Gary Headrick (San Clemente Green) – comments about condition of canisters
 - ii) Alice McNally (Coalition for Nuclear Safety) – asked to move SNF to higher ground
 - iii) Nina Babiarz (Public Watchdogs) – spent fuel storage funding
 - iv) Jennifer Savage (Surfrider Foundation) – advocating to move the SNF offsite
 - v) Phil Rutherford (Consultant) – Why is all SONGS waste going out of state?

14) Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.