

**Community Engagement Panel & Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition Joint Meeting
Solving the U.S. Nuclear Waste Challenge: A Dialogue on the Path Forward**

Thursday, June 4, 2026, 5:30 – 8:00 pm (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), Garry Brown (Orange County Coastkeeper), Mike Balsamo (Sr. VP, Government Relations Rancho Mission Viejo and South Orange County Economic Coalition Board Member), Scott Kibbey (California State Parks, South Sector Superintendent), Hon. Michael Villar (Dana Point City Council), Marni Magda (Sierra Club), Rob Howard (City of Oceanside Representative), Daniel Whitley (Camp Pendleton Community Plans and Liaison Officer), Ted Quinn (American Nuclear Society), Hon. Jim Desmond, (San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District and Spent Fuel Solutions coalition Co-chair), Hon. John Taylor (San Juan Capistrano City Council), Captain Mel Vernon (San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians), Hunter McDonald (alternate for Hon. Jim Desmond, San Diego County Supervisor, 5th District), and Kelvin Barrios (alternate for Val Macedo, Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 89)
- 2) Absent: Lisa Davis, (President, Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees), Valentine "Val" Macedo (Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 89), Hon. Katrina Foley, (Orange County Supervisor, 5th District and Spent Fuel Solutions coalition Co-chair), Alyssa Napuri (alternate for Hon. Katrina Foley, Orange County Supervisor, 5th District)
- 3) SCE Representatives: Fred Bailly (SCE Vice President of Generation and Chief Nuclear Officer) and Manuel Camargo (SCE Principal Manager, Strategic Planning and Stakeholder Engagement)
- 4) Guest Speakers: Representative Mike Levin (California, 49th District), Allison Macfarlane, Ph.D. (Professor and Director, School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, University of British Columbia), Lake Barrett, (Independent Consultant Serving Government and Commercial Nuclear Energy and Materials Management), Tom Isaacs, (Independent Strategic Advisor to SCE for Nuclear Waste Management), and Chris Wahl, (Director, Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition)

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 SONGS CEP and Spent Fuel Solutions coalition hosted a joint panel discussion on recent developments in pursuit of the offsite disposition of used nuclear fuel in the US. Momentum is building across the public and private sectors around Department of Energy (DOE) programs supporting Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses that include disposal.

Representative Mike Levin (CA-49) delivered opening remarks, stating at least four states were open to disposal as part of hosting Innovation Campuses, awardees may be announced in July, and that groundbreaking may start as early as 2027. The Congressman said prioritizing used fuel from shutdown sites like San Onofre will be a central part of a bipartisan legislative effort that also will seek to create a single-purpose entity to take over management of the US used fuel program. Finally, he mentioned his work to help secure \$112 million in appropriations in a 2027 bill to support the current used fuel management program within DOE.

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The panel discussion focused on the need for (1) a new single-purpose entity not subject to election cycles to manage the transportation, interim storage, and disposal facilities for used fuel; (2) reliable funding; and (3) the importance of trust and demonstrated competence.

Panelists were Allison Macfarlane, former NRC Chair and member of the president's Blue-Ribbon Commission (BRC) on America's Nuclear Future; Lake Barrett, former DOE senior official in the Office of Nuclear Energy; and Tom Isaacs, Independent Advisor to SCE for Nuclear Waste, former senior DOE official, lead advisor to the BRC, and for over 20 years, Chair of the Site Selection Review Group within the Canadian Nuclear Waste Management Organization.

In January, Macfarlane and Barrett served as co-lead authors of *The Path Forward for Nuclear Waste in the US* report which calls for a well-funded NuCorp to manage the used fuel program. The panel discussed the window of opportunity to realize used fuel disposal, key features of a successful US program, lessons learned, and strategic considerations.

SCE updated the community on a Severity Level IV non-cited violation from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission due to a low-level solid radioactive waste shipment from SONGS to a storage facility in Utah that did not meet a <1% liquid content requirement. There was no leak, nor consequences to public health or safety. Corrective actions have been implemented.

This summer, SCE will make improvements to the beach walkway to ensure public access from the north to the south end of San Onofre State Beach. More rip-rap will be added along the walkway. The seawall is in good condition and out of scope.

Shareables

- Check out the bipartisan report, [The Path Forward for Nuclear Waste in the US](#)
- Join the [Spent Fuel Solutions coalition](#) and support efforts to clear San Onofre of used fuel
- Learn about how used fuel is safely stored at San Onofre by visiting the [SONGS website](#)

3) Manuel Camargo (SCE) facilitated the public comment period on behalf of Victor Cabral and Martha McNicholas

- a) Roland Askeland (San Diego) - relocate nuclear waste at SONGS and thicker canisters
- b) Rudy Salazar (Randsburg Project) - seeking to move spent nuclear fuel to Randsburg
- c) Bart Ziegler (Samuel Lawrence Foundation) - NuCorp initiatives and local communities
- d) Daryl Gale - relocate spent nuclear fuel off the beach
- e) Charles Langley (Public Watchdogs) - When does spent fuel really become old and cold?
- f) Carl Perez - reprocessed uranium, states committing to used fuel disposal, repository costs
- g) Jeremy Pearson (Utah Office of Energy Development) - Innovation Campus proposal
- h) Peter Jones - Sematech public/private partnership as a template for NuCorp
- i) Kalene Walker – When will technical issues (canister degradation) be addressed?

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m. *Note: After one hour of public comment (the meeting was 43 minutes overtime), some members of the public did not have the opportunity to comment. Their written questions and answers have been posted to the meeting [web page](#).*