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NRC Online Form: Nuclear Materials Relief Requests

Comment On: NRC-2020-0104-0003
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General Comment

Q. Are the canisters safe and how long will they last? A. The manufacturer (Holtec International) warrants them for 25 years (<https://sanonofresafely.org/holtec-hi-storm-umax-nuclear-waste-dry-storage-system/>) Unfortunately, Edison selected the cheaper thin (5/8 inch thick) canisters rather than the thicker 10" to 19.75" ones they use in Europe. Each canister has the potential to release more radiation than the Chernobyl catastrophe which sent plumes of radiation over northern Europe in 1986. The technology is experimental and no one knows when the first canister will fail. In a decade or two, the canisters might be deemed too fragile to move anywhere. Our "plan" is totally irresponsible.

Q. Is the demo work going to be safe? A. Demolition has begun and will continue for a decade. Radioactive monitoring outside the plant will be discontinued so the public will have no direct access to radiation levels. At Hanford, it was recently revealed that demo work had to be halted because 42 workers were diagnosed with plutonium poisoning. Plutonium dust also blew outside the plant and contaminated homes and cars.

Q. Is it unhealthy to live near a nuclear power plant? A. San Onofre has been regularly releasing low-level radiation into the atmosphere and ocean since 1968. The National Academy of Sciences proposed a cancer streak study in the 31 mile radius around San Onofre but the sNRC vetoed the research. Congressman Issa was asked to help get the small amount of funding from Congress but he refused.

Q. Are most people up in arms over all of this? A. No. The nuclear industry has an enormous public relations arm as well as powerful friends in Congress. Many politicians ranging from city council members to Gov. Brown remain silent on what is probably the greatest threat to the future of Southern California.