



Community Engagement Panel Meeting *Key Updates, Takeaways & Shareables* May 28, 2020

Key Updates

- The dry storage of spent nuclear fuel at SONGS is designed to maintain the safety and confinement of the fuel. When operating, there were 82 emergency action levels at SONGS. Once all the spent fuel is in dry storage, there will be 3. None involve an off-site radiological release, even as a result of outlier events such as earthquakes and aircraft impacts.
- Fuel transfer operations, moving spent nuclear fuel from wet to passive dry storage, are continuing safely at SONGS with COVID-19 controls in place. SCE is in the process of storing canister 64 of 73. The work is likely to finish mid-summer 2020.
- The Unit 1 Reactor Pressure Vessel, a 770-ton low-level radioactive waste package, was moved off-site and is currently on its way to a disposal facility in Clive, Utah. This was one of the first major projects of the SONGS deconstruction and the work by the team to prepare and load the RPV was executed safely. Nearly all the low-level radioactive waste will follow the same pattern and be shipped to Clive.
- Deconstruction work at SONGS, ongoing since February, complies with the Governor's order and a SCE pandemic protocol. Completed work includes asbestos removal in the containment buildings and delivery of office trailers that will replace the onsite office buildings, which will be dismantled soon.

4 Key Takeaways

1. The Community Engagement Panel and SCE focused a majority of this meeting on examining so-called "outlier" events and what effects, if any, they would have on the spent nuclear fuel stored at SONGS. This meeting was undertaken in response to questions raised in a variety of ways by diverse members of the community. The meeting featured leading experts from across the country providing information on radiation, terrorist threats, postulated cracks in a spent fuel canister, and spent fuel storage security practices. Such a meeting in an unclassified, public setting and focused entirely on the risks of dry storage facilities is unprecedented in the industry.
2. Under the design basis, there are no accident scenarios involving dry spent fuel storage that result in an offsite radiological release due to damage to a canister. (This finding is supported by the analysis performed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission under NUREG-1140.) The local community should take comfort in that. Even so, SCE underscored the value of its strong partnerships with emergency responders in the vicinity of SONGS, including Camp Pendleton, local counties and local cities. The meeting included detailed overviews of emergency planning and responses by Orange County and San Diego County.
3. Dr. Kevin Crowley, formerly of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, concluded his presentation on terrorism and dry fuel storage systems with these summarized points: Robust designs of dry storage systems help protect spent fuel from terrorist attacks because of their massive physical shielding and multiple barriers to radioactive material releases. While no dry storage system provides complete protection against all attack types, "any radioactive material releases from attacks would likely be relatively small."
4. While the greatest concerns were raised around possible terrorist action, the expert panel underscored that onsite security is the essential line of defense against those threats. The SONGS onsite ISFSI-only security plan—which is part of the SONGS NRC license and enforced by the NRC—goes above and beyond the NRC requirements. It includes a number of provisions such as vehicle barriers, an integrated intrusion

detection/video surveillance system and armed force capabilities that the expert panel identified as important but could not be discussed in further detail in an open setting.

Shareables

- Find resources from the second quarter Community Engagement Panel meeting [here](#). Those resources include an online “library” with more detailed technical information on each of 14 possible outlier events. The library will be an evergreen asset, updated with new information as it appears.
- Visit the SONGS [YouTube channel](#) to see how SCE conducted a canister repair demonstration at SONGS.