



Community Engagement Panel Meeting *Key Messages, Takeaways & Shareables* Aug. 20, 2020

Key Messages

- **Southern California Edison recently moved all of its spent nuclear fuel safely to dry storage.** Dry storage has distinct benefits over storage in spent fuel pools, including a higher seismic rating than the plant itself, as well as no need for electricity, pumps, or cooling water.
- **With all the fuel in dry storage, the focus at SONGS shifts to dismantlement work.** Much of that work initially will be in and around the containment domes, and likely not visible to the public. The CEP heard that SCE's decommissioning contractor recently surpassed one million safe work hours.
- **The liquid batch releases that SONGS is making are safe, and well-below regulatory limits.** SCE's radiation health specialist, Dr. Eric Goldin, explained that if a person drank the entire 20,000 gallons of a recent batch release, it would be 4,000 times below the EPA's drinking water safety standard. Attempts to mischaracterize the releases as "unsafe" are not based in science.

5 Key Takeaways

1. With all the spent nuclear fuel in dry storage, SONGS has moved to a more streamlined "ISFSI-only" organization for the ongoing management of spent nuclear fuel. ISFSI stands for Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation. **This new organization includes a robust security presence and a team dedicated to monitoring of the storage installations as well as a team that will oversee dismantlement activities.**
2. The CEP received a briefing on decommissioning activities and the waste shipments that will be leaving the site during dismantlement. The majority of waste, 285,000 tons, will be low-level Class A waste, which will be shipped mostly by rail to Utah. The remaining 35 tons will be Class B or C waste that is bound for Texas by truck. **SCE is planning to utilize rail as much as practicable to reduce traffic congestion.**
3. The next inspections for the recently approved Inspection and Maintenance Program for the Holtec canisters will take place in 2024. **The metallic overlay repair process that has been developed by SCE meets military standards as well as international standards for adhesion and porosity, and now is available in the unlikely event that a spent fuel canister develops degradation.** The spent fuel systems are surveyed for temperature and radiation levels as part of periodic maintenance.
4. A member of the public asked about the dry spent fuel storage installation and sea level rise. SCE vice president Doug Bauder explained that **SCE will re-examine sea level rise prior to re-submitting a coastal development permit application in 2035**, and relocating the dry spent fuel storage systems to another part of the SONGS site, at a higher elevation, would be an option, based on the results.
5. **SCE's two-year project to expand the [Wheeler North Reef](#) off the Orange County coast came to a close last month.** Initially started in 2008, the Wheeler North Reef was constructed as a mitigation measure related to SONGS to help increase the number of residential fish in the area. The reef is doing extremely well, yet it was not large enough to attract sufficient numbers of fish, so an expansion project began to increase the reef by just over 200 acres for a total of 376 acres. See presentation [here](#).

Shareables

- Visit the August 20 CEP meeting [webpage](#) for more information.
- Visit the [liquid batch release page](#) on the SONGScommunity.com website.
- Visit the SONGS [YouTube channel](#) to see a time-lapse video of the final spent nuclear fuel canister download.