



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: September 15, 2015

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: ADVOCATING FOR THE REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL FROM THE SAN DIEGO REGION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Overview

The San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) operated in the northwest corner of San Diego County for more than 47 years. The station ceased all nuclear operations in June 2013 after excessive vibrations and other issues degraded tubes in steam generators. Stored on the site today is 1,400 metric tons of spent fuel, a direct byproduct of 45 years of nuclear operations. Even after being taken out of service, the nuclear waste remains incredibly hot and radioactive.

At this time, the federal government has failed to designate a permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel that would permit SONGS' operator, Southern California Edison (SCE), to store it at a permanent repository. Thus, SCE proposes to leave the nuclear waste onsite in dry cask storage indefinitely, and in spent fuel pools until at least 2019. SONGS was never intended to be a long-term nuclear waste storage facility, and leaving hot, radioactive fuel onsite poses a direct risk to the region because of threats that include natural disaster, terrorist attack and safety/design failures.

Today's action will direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter for the Chairman's signature to the United States Secretary of Energy urging the prompt removal and relocation of the spent nuclear fuel currently stored at the decommissioned San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and provide copies to San Diego County's federal legislative representatives, the Governor of California, the state legislative delegation, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the California Energy Commission and all other appropriate agencies or entities.

In addition, today's action will direct the Chief Administrative Officer to add to the County's Legislative Program support for legislation that would remove and relocate outside of the San Diego region the spent nuclear fuel stored at the decommissioned San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station.

Recommendation(s)

Supervisor Ron Roberts and Supervisor Dianne Jacob

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter for the Chairman's signature to

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the United States Secretary of Energy urging the prompt removal and relocation of the spent nuclear fuel currently stored at the decommissioned San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and provide copies to San Diego County's federal legislative representatives, the Governor of California, the state legislative delegation, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the California Energy Commission and all other appropriate agencies or entities.

2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to add to the County's Legislative Program support for legislation that would remove and relocate outside of the San Diego region the spent nuclear fuel stored at the decommissioned San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station.

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

Background

The San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) operated in the northwest corner of San Diego County for more than 45 years. Construction on the first of three units that would ultimately be built at the site began in 1964 and, in 1968, Unit 1 began commercial operation. Construction on Units 2 and 3 began in 1972 and commercial operation began in 1983 and 1984, respectively. By April 1987, SONGS ranked second in gross electricity generation in the United States, generating nearly 17.4 million megawatts.

After nearly 25 years of power generation, Unit 1 was shut down in November 1992 and then demolished in 2005. Units 2 and 3 remained operational until January 2012, when the former was taken offline for routine maintenance and the latter was shut down due to a leak in its steam generator. In the same month, SCE announced that both units would remain shut down due to excessive wear found in hundreds of steam generator tubes. By June 2013, SCE said it would close down SONGS. Stored on the site today is 1,400 metric tons of spent fuel, a direct byproduct of nuclear operations over 45 years. Even after being taken out of service, the nuclear waste remains incredibly hot and radioactive. Its long term storage in San Diego County is of great concern for county residents.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 created a timetable and procedure for establishing a permanent, underground repository for high-level radioactive waste by the mid-1990s. In addition, Congress designated the U.S. Department of Energy as responsible for developing a disposal facility for the long-term management of spent nuclear fuel from SONGS and other U.S. nuclear power plants. At this time, the federal government has failed to designate a permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel that would permit SONGS' operator, Southern California Edison (SCE), to relocate spent fuel to a permanent repository. Thus, nuclear fuel will remain in San Diego County on a thin strip of land less than 200 yards from the Pacific Ocean and 250

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yards from a major rail line and Interstate 5, which carries an average of 147,000 daily vehicles past the location and is San Diego County's primary northbound connection with the rest of California.

With more than 3 million people to the south of SONGS, San Diego County is dangerously close to this radioactive material that, if released, could cause long term health issues such as cancer and short term health concerns such as skin burns, nausea, and other serious complications that could lead to death. Storing this type of material at SONGS indefinitely is a serious threat to the region. Concerns include terrorists targeting SONGS with the purpose of releasing radioactive materials to cause harm, and natural disasters due to the unpredictability of these events and the significant damage they can cause. The half-life for radioactive waste is more than 1,000 years and the dry cask storage units proposed for San Onofre are only designed and licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for up to 40 years. The County of San Diego is committed to protecting the health and safety of its citizens, and in order to do so, we must object to SONGS being used as a storage site for spent nuclear waste.

Today's action will direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a letter for the Chairman's signature to the United States Secretary of Energy urging the prompt removal and relocation of the spent nuclear fuel currently stored at the decommissioned San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station and provide copies to San Diego County's federal legislative representatives, the Governor of California, the state legislative delegation, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the California Energy Commission and all other appropriate agencies or entities.

In addition, today's action will direct the Chief Administrative Officer to add to the County's Legislative Program support for legislation that would remove and relocate outside of the San Diego region the spent nuclear fuel stored at the decommissioned San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station..

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

Today's proposed actions support the Safe Communities Strategic Initiative of the County of San Diego's 2015-2010 Strategic Plan by advocating for the removal and relocation of spent nuclear fuel from the San Diego region.

Respectfully submitted,



Ron Roberts
Supervisor, Fourth District



Dianne Jacob
Supervisor, Second District

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Roberts and Supervisor Jacob

OTHER CONCURRENCES(S):

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