

Core Message to the NRC

From the Coalition to Decommission San Onofre and
Sierra Club Angeles Chapter - San Onofre Task Force
Docket ID No. NRC-2012-0246

Stop the Waste Con: The NRC *Draft Waste Confidence Generic Environmental Impact Statement* Report is unacceptable. Much of it appears to be based on **unsubstantiated hope**. It needs to address:

✓ **HIGH BURNUP FUEL – Too hot to handle**

No short-term storage or transportation solutions for high burnup fuel waste.

- **The NRC and DOE are concerned with the instability of high burnup nuclear waste** in both storage and transport, yet the NRC continues approving this dangerous fuel for U.S. reactors.
- **The NRC won't approve high burnup dry cask storage over 20 years because they have NO CONFIDENCE** it can be stored longer without releasing radiation into the environment, even though it must be safely stored for tens of thousands of years.
- **The NRC won't approve transportation of high burnup used fuel because they have NO CONFIDENCE** it can be transported without releasing radiation into the environment.
- **San Onofre's high burnup used fuel is so hot and radioactive, it requires up to a MINIMUM 20 YEARS cooling in the crowded spent fuel pools**, instead of the minimum 5 years for lower burnup fuel.¹

✓ **Generic Environmental Impact Statement – NOT acceptable for California**

- **California didn't "sign up" for permanent (100+ years) nuclear waste dumps.**
- **California's nuclear waste sits in the world's earthquake "ring of fire",** the same as Fukushima, the most active and dangerous earthquake zone in the world. California's nuclear waste is surrounded by known active earthquake faults and the USGS says no one has ever predicted a major earthquake.
- **Most of California's nuclear waste sits along an eroding coastline, in tsunami zones, and is exposed to a highly humid and corrosive coastal environment.** NRC's NUREG/CR-7030 states atmospheric corrosion of sea salt can lead to stress corrosion cracking within 32 and 128 weeks in *austenitic [corrosion resistant] stainless steel canisters*.²
- **It would be impossible to evacuate the millions of people living near California's waste.** Of the 34 million people in California, over 8.5 million are within 50 miles of San Onofre.
- **A radiological disaster impacts the nation's and world's security, economy and food supply.**
 - California is the eight ranking economy in the world, virtually tied with Italy and the Russian Federation, and larger than Canada, Australia and Spain.³
 - More than 40 percent of containerized imports enter the country through California ports, and nearly 30 percent of the country's exports depart through them.⁴
 - California produces nearly half of the U.S. grown fruits, nuts and vegetables. California remained the number one state in cash farm receipts in 2011, with its \$43.5 billion in revenue representing 11.6 percent of the U.S. total. U. S. consumers regularly purchase several crops produced solely in California.⁵
 - San Onofre is located adjacent to the primary vehicle transportation artery between Los Angeles and San Diego (I-5), and one of the largest military installations (and potential target) on the West Coast (Camp Pendleton).

¹ Sources for high burnup information at <http://sanonofresafety.org/nuclear-waste/>

² *Atmospheric Stress Corrosion Cracking Susceptibility of Welded and Unwelded 304, 304L, and 316L Austenitic Stainless Steels Commonly Used for Dry Cask Storage Containers Exposed to Marine Environments* (NUREG/CR-7030)
<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1031/ML103120081.pdf>

³ <http://www.ccsce.com/PDF/Numbers-July-2013-CA-Economy-Rankings-2012.pdf>,
http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/FS_DATA/LatestEconData/FS_Misc.htm

⁴ Pacific Merchant Shipping Association 11/10/13 <http://www.pmsaship.com/default.aspx?ID=8>

⁵ *California Agricultural Statistics* USDA October 31, 2012

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/California/Publications/California_Ag_Statistics/Reports/2011cas-all.pdf

✓ **We oppose NRC's proposed rule that future licensing be based on the assumption spent fuel can be safely stored above ground virtually forever.**

- In the draft NRC Waste Confidence rule⁶, the NRC proposes to incorporate into every reactor license the Draft GEIS' conclusion that spent fuel can be safely stored above ground indefinitely.
- This proposal would in effect forbid any further public discussion, in individual reactor licensing actions, of the serious question of whether generation of additional spent fuel is justifiable in light of the absence of any means of safe disposal.

Background: As described by the NRC Chairman, Allison Macfarlane, in a recent speech, "in June 2012, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals vacated the NRC's 2010 Waste Confidence rule. In the court's opinion, *the Commission's conclusion that a high-level waste repository would be available 'when necessary' lacked an appropriate discussion of the environmental consequences of failing to achieve that objective. The ruling also expressed concern about potential spent fuel pool leaks and fires.* In the time since the court issued its decision ... NRC staff has been working to revise the Waste Confidence rule and develop a generic environmental impact statement. From the beginning, the Commission made it clear that public involvement must be an essential part of this process. Starting last month, the NRC has been holding a series of public meetings around the country to get important input for our final products."⁷

The **Coalition to Decommission San Onofre** includes Citizens Oversight, Inc., Peace Resource Center of San Diego, San Clemente Green, SanOnofreSafety.org and Women Occupy San Diego.

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⁶ <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1325/ML13256A004.pdf>

⁷ <http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1330/ML13309A775.pdf>