

September 14, 2017

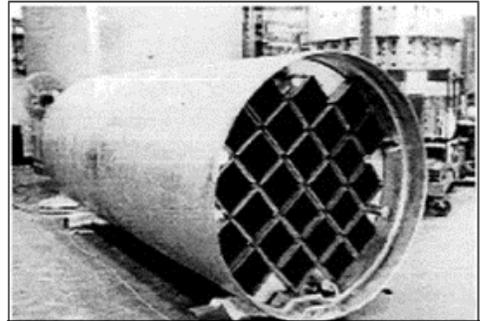
Dear Elected Officials and Regulators,

Southern California Edison is storing 3.6 Million pounds (1632 metric tons) of highly radioactive nuclear waste in **unsafe containers in an unsafe location** at the San Onofre Nuclear Facility. We urgently need your help before major radioactive leaks force permanent evacuation of major regions of California.

H.R. 3053 “The Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017” and similar interim nuclear waste storage bills **do not solve these urgent problems** and contain amendments that will increase our risks for major radioactive leaks. Time is of the essence.

RECOMMENDATION #1: Advocate for

- **Thick-wall nuclear waste dry storage casks that are designed to last, are transportable, can be inspected (inside and out), maintained, repaired and monitored to PREVENT leaks. We expect these safety requirements in a car.**
- **Increased environmental and security protections.**
- **A plan to store the nuclear waste in a safer location.**



Thin-wall canisters can prematurely crack and leak, and cannot be inspected inside or out.

Instead, Edison is doing the opposite. They are ignoring those basic common sense safety requirements and they have no system in place to deal with cracking or leaking canisters. They plan to load 73 more inferior thin-wall canisters and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is allowing this. Edison currently has 51 thin-wall canisters that are in danger of having hairline cracks and radioactive leaks.

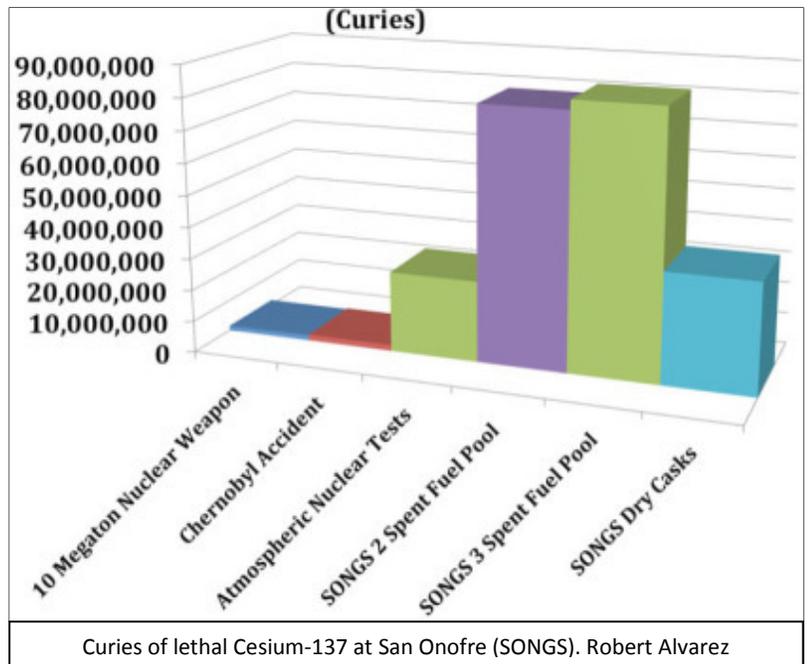
- **Each canister contains about as much highly radioactive Cesium-137 as was released from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.**
- **Most countries use proven thick-wall metal casks (10” to 19 ¾” thick) that meet the above critical safety requirements and are transportable.** They store them in hardened buildings for additional environmental and security protection.
- **The Fukushima thick-wall casks survived the 9.1 earthquake and 127 foot tsunami.**
- **Thin-wall canisters cannot be inspected for cracks or for damaged fuel, and thus we don’t know when they will leak or if they are transportable.** Canisters may already have cracks. Even partially cracked canisters are not safe for transport, yet Edison and the NRC refuse to require critical dry storage safety requirements.
- **The NRC states a Diablo Canyon two-year old thin-wall canister has all the conditions for cracking.**
- **The NRC states the Koeberg nuclear plant had a comparable container (a tank) leak in only 17 years with cracks up to 0.61”.** Some San Onofre canisters are already 14 years old, so time is of the essence. Thin-wall canisters are 0.50” (1/2”) to 0.625” (5/8”) thick.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

Please advocate stopping Edison from storing unsafe thin-wall canisters by the beach. **Advocate to:**

- **Deny/revoke NRC San Onofre Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facility (ISFSI) licenses.**
- **Revoke California Coastal Commission permits that allow San Onofre inferior thin-wall canisters to be unsafely stored by the beach.**

San Onofre is located in one of the most highly populated regions of the country, in a major earthquake zone, vulnerable to coastal corrosion and erosion, and in a major international transportation corridor.



Edison has not only chosen inferior containers, but wants to bury them about 100 feet from the ocean in a highly corrosive and unsafe environment.

RECOMMENDATION #3: Please oppose any amendments to the *Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982* (NWPA) that remove safety requirements and preempt or jeopardize current federal, state and local clean water, air and other rights. **Please oppose the NWPA amendments in H.R. 3053 that:**

- **Jeopardize or preempt federal, state and local clean water, air and other rights.**
- **Remove nuclear storage and transport safety requirements that are needed to PREVENT major radioactive leaks.**
- **Remove oversight, input and transparency of nuclear waste storage facilities.**
- **Remove utilities' liability by transferring licenses to the federal government without addressing critical dry storage and transport safety issues and costs.**

Time is of the essence. Action is needed before major radioactive leaks cause permanent evacuation of major regions of California.

Respectfully,

Southern California Communities