

DOCKETED

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To: CEC
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Question 1c:

Section 3: Progress in Completing 2013 - 2015 IEPR Recommendations

B. San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station Status of Decommissioning

1c. Please provide an update to the Energy Commission on the decommissioning status of the San Onofre facility. The decommissioning update should include information on the current terms of the Navy lease, as well as any planning pertaining to the funding and maintenance of the ISFSIs if on-site storage must be continued beyond 2029.

Response to Question 1c:

Decommissioning Update:

The San Onofre facility has been permanently shutdown since June of 2013. Since that time, planning for the decontamination and dismantling have been underway. A number of submittals (Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report, Decommissioning Cost Estimate, Irradiated Fuel Management Plan, Permanently Defueled Technical Specifications, Permanently Defueled Emergency Plan) to the NRC have been completed that allowed for a reduction of costs and will allow for a safe and more efficient decommissioning. Current decommissioning activities at San Onofre include completion of the Cold & Dark projects that prepare the plant for decommissioning (expected in summer 2016), procurement of a Decommissioning General Contractor (expected in late 2016), and expansion of the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) or dry spent fuel storage facility (expected in summer 2017). All fuel is scheduled to be transferred from the wet storage pools to dry storage in the ISFSI in mid-2019.

Navy Easement and Lease Update:

The onshore portion of SONGS is located within the boundaries of U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. The Department of the Navy (DoN) issued easements and a lease that allowed for the construction and operation of the plant. The primary easement, for the approximately 84-acre plant site, was granted on May 12, 1964 for a 60-year term. Easements were also granted for access roads; a railroad spur track; a probable maximum flood (PMF) berm, channel, and basin; and transmission lines. Additional support facilities were developed on approximately 135 acres of leased land (referred to as the "Mesa Lease"), including two parcels with office and warehouse buildings located east of Interstate 5 (I-5) and three parcels west of I-5.

Regarding the primary easement for the 84-acre plant site, discussions are in progress between the San Onofre co-participants and the DoN concerning the final condition of the land for return to the DoN. These conditions should identify the site decontamination criteria; improvements to be removed or retained; and the end state of the land (including final site restoration). The primary easement expires in 2024, therefore, the SONGS co-participants also plan to seek an extension of the term to allow for the continued right to occupy the land until decommissioning is complete and the spent fuel is transported for off-site storage. For the other easements (i.e., for access roads; a railroad spur track; a probable maximum flood (PMF) berm, channel, and basin; and transmission lines), the co-participants plan to seek term extensions as necessary to support decommissioning and dry spent fuel storage at San Onofre, as well as continued transmission needs, and terminate the easements when they are no longer needed.

Regarding the Mesa lease, the San Onofre coparticipants are currently in the process of remediating and then returning three parcels to the DoN. The remaining parcels will likely be needed for decommissioning and will be returned to the DoN at a future date.

ISFSI Planning of Funding and Maintenance for On-site Storage beyond 2029:

The current San Onofre decommissioning cost estimates (DCEs) assume that nuclear fuel will remain in dry storage on-site through 2049, and includes all corresponding costs. The San Onofre nuclear decommissioning trusts include sufficient funding for these fuel storage costs, given current assumptions.