

# PROGRESS REPORT

# SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

## A HISTORY OF UNITED STATES SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL MANAGEMENT

- 1968** San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) began producing electricity.
- 1982** The Nuclear Waste Policy Act became law and created a timetable for the federal government to accept waste from commercial nuclear power plants, including SONGS, by January 1, 1998.
- 1987** Congress amended the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to designate Yucca Mountain in Nevada as the sole permanent repository for the nation's commercial nuclear waste, over the objections of Nevadans.
- 2002** Nevada exercised its state veto but is overridden by Congress.
- 2009** The federal government announces plans to terminate the Yucca Mountain program, leaving no disposal site for the nation's commercial nuclear waste. Subsequent presidential administrations have maintained this policy.
- 2013** SONGS ceased producing electricity and began decommissioning activities, with the spent nuclear fuel stored on-site at the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI).

## REPRESENTATIVE MIKE LEVIN'S PROGRESS TO REMOVE THE NUCLEAR WASTE AT SONGS

- 2019** Rep. Levin took office, launched a task force made up of local stakeholders and experts to address the situation at SONGS, and introduced the Spent Fuel Prioritization Act to direct the Department of Energy (DOE) to prioritize accepting spent nuclear fuel from decommissioned civilian nuclear power reactors that are located in high population areas or with high earthquake hazard, like SONGS.
- 2020** The SONGS Task Force Report was published with 30 policy recommendations; Rep. Levin and colleagues secured \$20 million for DOE to restart its consent-based siting process for federal Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS), which could accept spent nuclear fuel from SONGS; and Rep. Levin introduced his INSPECT Act to prioritize safety of stranded nuclear fuel by requiring the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to keep a resident inspector at decommissioning nuclear power plants until all fuel is transferred from spent fuel pools to canisters.
- 2021** Rep. Levin formed a bipartisan Congressional Spent Nuclear Fuel Solutions Caucus (there are now 24 members of the Caucus); he introduced the Nuclear Waste Task Force Act to establish a group of federal, state, local, and tribal officials to study and report on the implications of empowering states to perform environmental review of the transport, siting, and storage of spent nuclear fuel; and DOE released a Request for Information (RFI) about federal CIS opportunities across the country.



**Mike**  **Levin**

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE PROUDLY SERVING CALIFORNIA'S 49TH DISTRICT

# REPRESENTATIVE MIKE LEVIN'S PROGRESS TO REMOVE THE NUCLEAR WASTE AT SONGS

**Early 2022** DOE received 225 responses to its RFI; Rep. Levin and colleagues secured an additional \$20 million for DOE to continue its consent-based siting process for CIS; and Rep. Levin hosted DOE Secretary Granholm at SONGS.

**September 2022** DOE issued a \$16 million funding opportunity announcement (FOA) as part of its consent-based siting activities; the funding will provide resources to communities interested in learning more about consent-based siting, management of spent nuclear fuel, and consolidated interim storage facility siting considerations.

**October 2022** Rep. Levin introduced the NRC Office of Public Engagement and Participation Act, which would direct the NRC to establish an Office of Public Engagement and Participation to help members of the public understand NRC's proceedings and how to participate.

**November 2022** Rep. Levin introduced the 100 Year Canister Life Act to require spent nuclear fuel canisters to have a design life of at least 100 years.

**December 2022** Rep. Levin and colleagues secured an additional \$53 million to continue advancing the consent-based siting process for consolidated interim storage; this funds planning and development required for the implementation of consolidated interim storage of the nation's nuclear waste.

**January 2023** DOE announced that it would be increasing funding for the FOA to \$26 million thanks to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations bill; FOA application period closed.

**April 2023** Rep. Levin requested \$53 million for CIS in FY24. DOE issues a report outlining a roadmap for implementing a consent-based siting process and siting at least one federal CIS facility.



## REP. LEVIN'S NEXT STEPS, THE WORK IN PROGRESS, AND FINAL GOALS

**Mid 2023** DOE announces the list of awardees selected under the FOA; DOE will fund up to 16 geographically diverse awardees over a period of 18 to 24 months.

**2023-2026** Planning and Capacity Building Stage: FOA recipients will participate in in-depth engagement, mutual learning, and capacity building activities. The anticipated remaining duration of this phase is two to three years.

**2025-2033 (est.)** Site-Screening and Assessment Stage: communities that remain interested can engage with DOE and appropriate stakeholders to comprehensively assess their sites to reach a final decision. The anticipated duration of this phase is four to seven years.

**2028 (est.)** SONGS dismantlement is completed, with nuclear waste stored on-site at the existing ISFSI.

**2029-2038 (est.)** Negotiation and Implementation Stage: DOE will select one or more sites to host a federal consolidated interim storage facility; in coordination with DOE, interested communities will develop and negotiate terms and conditions of consent-based agreements, and consent-based agreements are signed between hosts and federal government. The anticipated duration until initial operation is four to five years.

**2033-2038 (est.)** A Federal CIS facility starts operation and nuclear waste from SONGS begins to be transferred.

**2045 (est.)** All nuclear waste from SONGS has been transferred, the ISFSI is demolished, and the site is returned to the Department of the Navy.

