



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on

Hearing on the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Nuclear Spent Fuel Storage

What is SONGS and what is being proposed?

The San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station or SONGS is owned in part by Southern California Edison and is in the process of being decommissioned. SONGS currently has a waste storage facility which holds spent fuels from SONGS, as well as radioactive materials. The applicant wants to extend the permit for the facility so that the material can continue to be stored on site until November 15, 2035, while the US Department of Energy works to find a permanent disposal facility.

What is the California Coastal Commission?

The Coastal Commission is a state government agency that preserves and protects California's coast and ocean for all. In the case of this project, the Commission will vote on whether to extend the permit for the waste storage facility. The Commission does not have authority over any nuclear or radiological aspect of the facility or SONGS. That authority rests with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which oversees nuclear operations and has exclusive authority over nuclear safety and hazards.

When will the Commission make a decision about the waste storage facility?

The Commission will hold a hybrid public hearing in person and on Zoom to consider the storage facility permit extension at its [October 2022 hearing in San Diego](#). The waste storage facility is item 12a on Thursday, October 13th. The Commission will hear from its staff, government representatives, and members of the public. The Commission is expected to vote on whether to approve or deny the permit extension. The public hearing is an opportunity to make your voice heard on the proposed project. All are welcome.

What is the staff recommending to the Commission?

The staff analysis focuses on identifying any new or changed environmental conditions since the waste storage facility was originally approved in 2001. The staff recommendation evaluates coastal and geologic hazards including sea level rise, coastal erosion, slope failure, earthquakes, and tsunamis, and found that the waste storage facility is expected to withstand coastal hazards through 2035. As such, the staff has recommended approval with conditions on authorizing the waste storage facility through 2035.

How can I participate?

- Email comments to SanOnofreComments@coastal.ca.gov or mail: 445 Market Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94105
- Participate in the public hearing on October 13, 2022, for Item 12a:
 - **Virtual (Zoom) meeting procedures:** <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/assets/virtual-hearing/VIRTUAL-HEARING-PROCEDURES.pdf>
 - **In-person location:** Best Western Island Palms Hotel & Marina, 2051 Shelter Island Dr., San Diego, CA 92106
- For questions, contact Holly Wyer, Senior Environmental Scientist at Holly.Wyer@coastal.ca.gov.