

Citizens' Oversight Projects (COPs)

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April 3, 2017



CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT PROJECTS
CitizensOversight.org

NEWS RELEASE -- MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRIAL TO REVOKE NUCLEAR WASTE DUMP PERMIT

Citizens Oversight vs. California Coastal Commission may block permanent dump at San Onofre only 100 ft from the ocean

This trial is our last clear opportunity to block it

DATE: Friday April 14, 2017
WHERE: San Diego Superior Court, Hall of Justice, 330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

EVENT 1: PRETRIAL PRESS CONFERENCE

Ray Lutz (Citizens Oversight) and attorneys from Aguirre & Severson speak to media.
WHEN: 1:00 PM, Friday April 14, 2017
WHERE: On the steps of the Hall of Justice
VIDEO: Will be live-streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/citizenoversight/>

EVENT 2: TRIAL in the case of Citizens Oversight vs. California Coastal Commission

WHEN: 2:00 pm, Friday April 14, 2017
WHERE: San Diego Superior Court, Dept C68
INFO: Details of the case: <http://citizenoversight.org/StopNukeDump>
RSVP: <https://www.facebook.com/events/982400028563831/>
ACTIVISTS: Courtroom has limited seating. **Gather on front steps for open-mike, signing, etc.**
CALL OUT TO CONCERNED CITIZENS -- please join us (See notes below.)

EVENT 3: POST-TRIAL PRESS CONFERENCE

Ray Lutz, attorneys from Aguirre & Severson, public speak to media.
WHEN: Approximately 4:30 to 5 PM, Friday April 14, 2017 (After the hearing is over)
NOTE: this press conference is difficult to conduct at a specific time, please be ready.
WHERE: On the steps of the Hall of Justice
VIDEO: Will be live-streamed at <https://www.facebook.com/citizenoversight/>

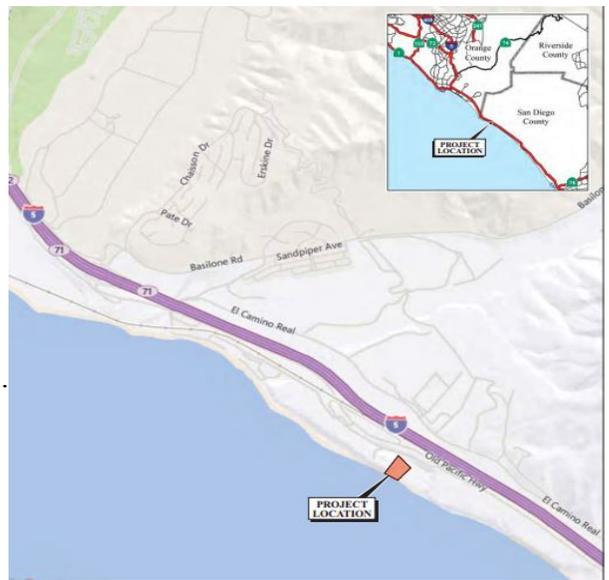


The California Coastal Commission (CCC) inexplicably approved the permit to bury 3.6 million pounds of nuclear waste only 100 feet from the beach and only inches over the high-tide mark.

Ray Lutz, National Coordinator of Citizens Oversight, Engineer, said, “After careful review of the CCC permit, I became thoroughly convinced that the construction of this nuclear storage facility (ISFSI) at this location should be blocked, so we filed this lawsuit shortly after approval on October 6, 2015. We are now just getting to the trial. By blocking this permit, we can take a closer look at all the options and hopefully avoid this ridiculous decision.”

WASTE DEADLY: This is high-level nuclear waste and is extremely deadly, and will remain so for up to 250,000 years.

WRONG PLACE: This location, is near 8.4 residents within 50 miles, a ten-lane freeway, and active railroad line, and thus represents a prime terrorist target. Build it in the unoccupied desert and it no longer will be an important target.



OTHER OPTIONS NOT INVESTIGATED: There are many options that have not been explored esp. other locations in California or in other states. Edison, the plant operator, has explored only default solution, which results in nuclear waste being stored right on the coast in an area where no one would choose to put it. They consider any sort of paperwork impossible to surmount, such as licenses that must be obtained for any other more logical location. Plus, it seems any public review of this disaster is to be avoided, typical of a publicly traded company interested in avoiding discussion of nuclear waste.

SIDEBAR:

Q: Are there other places for the waste that would be better than San Onofre?

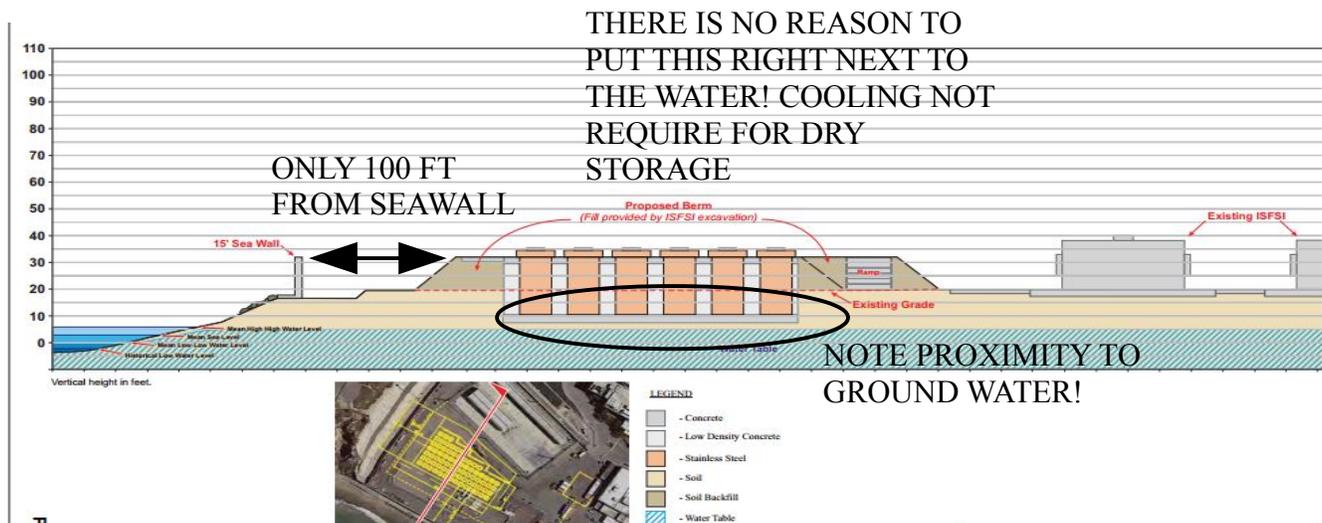
A: Absolutely! Here are some possibilities:

1. The **Palo Verde Nuclear Plant**, near Phoenix, which is already licensed as a nuclear waste storage facility is probably the most attractive alternative. It need to be expanded, and licensing paperwork done. Transportation is feasible. (Our lawsuit focuses on this option.)
2. **Mojave Desert**, far from civilization. We investigated this option and suggested the railroad stop called "Fishel CA". see: <http://copswiki.org/Common/M1732> for a review of this option. Our conclusion was that this specific location is perhaps *too remote* as services (roads, power, internet, etc.) are required, so more review is needed, but the general idea is very viable, and being right off a railroad makes transportation easy.
3. **Camp Pendleton**, not optimal but still better: A location about 3 miles inland avoids ocean dangers, is on a secure military base, and transportation risks are minimized, but is still in an earthquake zone and near high population centers.

TIME SCALES OFF - MAY NEVER MOVE: The permit by the Coastal Commission is for 20 years. But the Commission knows the ISFSI will be in place for at least 35 years, even given the best-case scenario. There is a Generic Environmental Impact Statement for such an ISFSI that allows it to remain in place indefinitely -- for 100 years or more. Given our history of taking care of nuclear waste, it may never move once this facility is built.

TOO CLOSE TO THE WATER: The ground level is so close to the water level, they plan to build the structure half out of the ground but even then, the ground water level is within inches. Any increase in ocean levels in the next 100 years will likely raise the ground water to exceed the bottom of the structure.

Coastal Commission admits that the coast is likely to erode up to the ISFSI location within that time as well, and they prohibited any improvement in the seawall to protect the ocean.



CANISTERS TOO BIG, HOT, THIN: The canisters currently being used are too heavy, when coupled with the transportation over-pack, to be placed on conventional train cars or semi-trucks. They are too hot and large to be compatible with any future geologic repository, and too thin to resist ocean-air corrosion for very long. The NRC license for these canisters is only for 20 years. Although canister design is NOT within scope of this trial, we believe the Coastal Commission must take the overall risk into account.

NO INSPECTIONS: Even though we know the relatively thin 5/8” steel canisters will likely corrode in the ocean salt air, there is no requirement for inspections in the permit period and inspection technology does not yet exist.

Donna Gilmore, founder SanOnofreSafety.org said, “The NRC admits the thin-wall canisters Edison is using can crack and they have no way to find the cracks. Even partially cracked canisters cannot be transported and there is no seismic rating for cracked canisters.”

NEWLY DISCOVERED FAULTS: Scripps Institution of Oceanography just completed an extended study of the faults nearby and determined the Newport-Inglewood/Rose Canyon fault is capable of a (very strong) 7.4 magnitude earthquake. Earthquakes frequently result in ground liquefaction. Additionally, some geologists predict the coast will sink about three feet in a future quake.

PROCESS TOO QUICK: Why, when the waste will be deadly for 250,000 years and the facility may be there for decades or centuries, should we have only one short public meeting, where speakers were limited to a measly two minutes, and where there was no real opportunity to provide information or testimony in opposition? This Coastal Commission meeting where this was approved was designed to fly under the radar, never announced or reviewed at the Community Engagement Panel Meetings. Wrong!

BACKROOM MEETINGS: To top it off, most of the commissioners had improper secret *ex parte* meetings with the applicant, Southern California Edison. Wrong again!

WE MUST STOP THIS INSANITY! If we are successful, the permit will be blocked and we can process this important decision correctly. There ARE other options, if we allow additional paperwork to be done, rather than optimizing for near-term corporate profits, we need to consider the ramifications of leaving this nuclear waste here in a ridiculous location on the coast vs. moving it to an alternative location.

See all related information at this project link: <http://citizenoversight.org/StopNukeDump>

CALL OUT TO CONCERNED CITIZENS:

We need to fill every seat in the courtroom! Please, no signs, reading, cell phones, etc etc. in the courtroom. Please be quiet in hallways outside the courtrooms. No photography allowed in the building. Best to gather on the steps of the courthouse. Please keep sidewalks clear and do not obstruct doorways.

RSVP: <https://www.facebook.com/events/982400028563831/>

Activist Signup: <http://citizenoversight.org/signup>

Livestream: <https://www.facebook.com/citizenoversight/>

PRESS CONTACT:

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Ray Lutz -- 619-820-5321 / raylutz@citizenoversight.org

NOTE: Will likely to also have a press conference on Saturday, April, in front of the Hilton By the Bay Hotel, just south of the convention Center at 5pm. We will send an update on this event.

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