



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sabrina Venskus, 213-482-4200 or venskus@lawsv.com

Advocacy group appeals ruling on San Onofre nuclear waste

LOS ANGELES (Dec. 10, 2021) — Determined to protect people and the environment, an advocacy group is appealing a lower court’s ruling that provided no contingency for 3.6 million pounds of spent nuclear fuel stranded 100 feet from the ocean at San Onofre.

In a notice filed Dec. 7, the Samuel Lawrence Foundation moved toward reversing a Sept. 21 Superior Court judgement that sided with the California Coastal Commission and Southern California Edison, majority owner of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, which is in the midst of decommissioning.

Samuel Lawrence Foundation sued to demand that facilities remain in place to handle the highly-radioactive waste that is expected to remain on site long after above-ground structures are removed.

“It is outrageous that Edison can dump deadly nuclear waste on our beach,” said Dr. Bart Ziegler, a toxicologist and president of Samuel Lawrence Foundation. “The Coastal Commission must require the utility to provide facilities to repair and replace leaky metal canisters.”

In its lawsuit, the Foundation shows the Coastal Commission failed to consider evidence and violated the Coastal Act. In particular, the lawsuit challenges plans to dismantle the plant’s spent fuel pools, where leaky waste canisters could be contained.

The application ignored seismic and tsunami risks and postponed consideration of other “significant adverse cumulative impacts,” the lawsuit says.

Ahead of the Coastal Commission’s October 2019 hearing, the Samuel Lawrence Foundation presented [more than 1,600 pages of evidence](#) and declarations from scientists, nuclear physicists and geologists — information that the commission for the most part ignored.

The Foundation argues that Edison’s oceanfront waste-storage facility eventually will fail. Thin-walled, stainless steel waste canisters are especially vulnerable to corrosion from seawater and groundwater.

Nearly 9 million people live within 50 miles of the nuclear plant, which quit making electricity in 2013. Critical transportation infrastructure — including Interstate 5 and the Los Angeles-San Diego rail corridor — is located just east of the plant. Immediately to the west is San Onofre State Beach.

In addition to the California Coastal Commission, the lawsuit names the plant’s majority owner and operator, Southern California Edison, and minority owners San Diego Gas & Electric Co., City of Riverside and City of Anaheim.

Samuel Lawrence Foundation advocates for safe storage and monitoring of the nuclear waste stranded at San Onofre.

“Edison’s lack of preparedness is unacceptable for Southern California,” Ziegler said.

Learn more at www.samuellawrencefoundation.org