

SONGS: Necessary for Grid Stability in the Region

As the largest baseload power plant in Southern California, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station's (SONGS) presence is needed to provide cost-effective, reliable baseload electrical generation in order to meet demand and energy. In addition, continued operation of SONGS is needed to maintain grid reliability in the region.



Continued operation of SONGS is important to Southern California for many reasons:

Reliability

- Its generating capacity – 2,200 megawatts – represents the region's largest single source of electricity
- SONGS' power source is dependable and available 24/7

Cost Effectiveness

- SONGS helps control customer costs by providing electricity from a stable fuel source, allowing pricing to remain steady
- SONGS is a major economic and job contributor to local communities and employs 2,600 employees

Environmentally Responsible

- Nuclear plant operations emit little to no greenhouse gas emissions
- By being virtually carbon-free, SONGS supports California's ambitious climate change initiatives
- SONGS utilizes advanced technologies such as the state-of-the-art fish elevator to reduce the impact on marine life
- SONGS restoration projects revitalize the California Coast and shoreline through many initiatives including the San Dieguito wetlands project and the Wheeler North Artificial kelp reef

While these are significant benefits, safety remains SONGS' top priority. The highest responsibility for those who operate SONGS is safeguarding surrounding communities and plant employees. SONGS has robust overlapping safety measures in place and operates in a manner that protects public health and the environment.



The Regulatory Process

The initial 40-year operating licenses for both Units 2 and 3 at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) expire in 2022. Active decommissioning of Unit 1 was completed in 2008. License renewal is necessary to allow continued operation of SONGS and entails a complex, multi-year effort that pursues two regulatory tracks.

CPUC Review Process

SCE plans to file an application with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) – the state regulatory agency responsible for ensuring that California's consumers have safe, reliable utility service at reasonable rates. Through the application, SCE will request funds to pursue renewal of its license and demonstrate that the continued operation of SONGS for an additional 20 years is cost-effective and in the best interest of California utility customers. The process includes public hearings. A CPUC decision is expected 18-24 months after the filing.

NRC Review Process

Approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the federal regulator that oversees commercial nuclear power plants, has four components: a safety review, an environmental review, inspections and an independent review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. There are multiple opportunities in the process for public involvement. NRC approval is expected to take at least three to five years.

