

San Onofre: A Disaster Waiting to Happen

Speaker Bios

Paul Blanch

Nuclear engineer Paul Blanch has more than 50 years of nuclear engineering experience, including management of regulatory issues and safety concerns in the nuclear industry. He has been employed by nuclear licensees for more than 30 years. As a nuclear safety advocate, Blanch's main goal is to assure that US nuclear plants are operated safely and in compliance with federal regulations.

During Mr. Blanch's career, he has worked for the chief nuclear officers (CNOs) at Millstone, Maine Yankee and Indian Point, including both Consolidated Edison and Entergy Nuclear. He has been a paid consultant for the State of New York. While engaged with these companies, Blanch was heavily involved with decommissioning responsibilities. He has also made presentations to the Pilgrim and the Vermont decommissioning panels. Blanch has interfaced extensively with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on decommissioning safety issues and recently met with the NRC Chairman, Staff and NRC's Inspector General regarding San Onofre.

Mr. Blanch has provided consulting services for the Electric Power Research Institute (**EPRI**) and the Nuclear Energy Institute (**NEI**). He was named Engineer of the Year by Westinghouse Electric. Blanch has been a Registered Professional Engineer (PE) by the State of California. Blanch has testified before the US Senate on NRC regulatory issues resulting in a significant change to the Atomic Energy Act.

Cathy Iwane

A mother of two, Cathy taught English in the private and public sectors in Wakayama, Japan for 25 years. She completed her post-graduate work at Wakayama Institute of Foreign Studies, and co-founded Gaia English Academy in 1990 with her husband, where she developed curriculum and staffed educators from around the globe for the school's experiential, immersive programs until 1998.

After experiencing the Fukushima Daiichi triple nuclear meltdowns in March of 2011, Cathy and her husband made the difficult decision to evacuate their children to San Diego in April of 2012.

In an ironic twist of fate, Cathy moved in one day before the San Onofre Generating Station's 2012 radiation leak into the environment. Her family's new home was now 30 miles downwind of a failing nuclear power plant. Cathy served as interpreter to Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan in June, 2013 at San Diego's nuclear expert panel discussion, 'Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Accident: Ongoing Lessons for California', featuring former NRC Commissioners and nuclear

engineers speaking out as safety advocates on the mistakes and aftermath of the Fukushima disaster.

During the 11 years since her evacuation from Japan, Cathy has joined forces with citizens' groups, nuclear experts, community leaders and scientists to shed light on the unaddressed risks of unsafe storage of high level spent nuclear fuel and to forge solutions on the mounting problem of nuclear waste at San Onofre and beyond.

Gary Headrick

In 2007, Gary and Laurie Headrick formed San Clemente Green to promote a sustainable future for their community. By 2010 their work with the city resulted in a Sustainability Action Plan that guides programs and policies to this day.

San Clemente Green led the grass roots effort to shut down San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), starting in 2010, when whistleblowers accurately predicted the demise of the nuclear power plant in 2012. Newly replaced steam generators released radiation into the environment, and SONGS was never to be restarted again.

San Clemente Green continues to work with nuclear activists around the country and Gary currently serves on Representative Levin's Congressional Task Force on Nuclear Waste.

Charles Langley

Mr. Langley is an experienced media professional with an extensive background in advertising, marketing, government relations, and regulatory policy. He is the Executive Director of Public Watchdogs, a non-profit organization with a mission to independently monitor energy and infrastructure regulatory agencies in California with a focus on protecting public health and safety and removing the nuclear waste from the San Onofre Nuclear Facility.

Mr. Langley has created a concept of public advocacy and consumer awareness that spans a wide range of responsibilities from founding principles to administrative and legal requirements.