

On the Bright Side

Charges in South Carolina against Nuclear Execs

Washington DC—The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) today charged SCANA Corp., two of its former top executives, and South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. (SCE&G), now known as Dominion Energy South Carolina Inc., with defrauding investors by making false and misleading statements about a \$9 billion nuclear power reactor expansion that was ultimately abandoned.



The SEC's complaint alleges that SCANA, its former CEO Kevin Marsh, former Executive Vice President Stephen Byrne, and subsidiary SCE&G misled investors about a project to build two nuclear reactors that would qualify the company for more than \$1 billion in tax credits. According to the complaint, the defendants claimed that the project was on track even though they knew it was far behind schedule, making it unlikely to qualify for the tax credits. The complaint further alleges one SCANA executive said that officers of the company "flew around the country showing the same . . . construction pictures from different angles and played our fiddles" while the project itself "was going up in flames." SCANA abandoned the project in mid-2017 with neither reactor completed. The complaint alleges that the false statements and omissions enabled SCANA to boost its stock price, sell more than \$1 billion in bonds, and obtain regulatory approval to raise customers' rates to finance the project.

"When making statements to the public, executives cannot provide false information or half-truths," said Richard R. Best, director of the SEC's Atlanta regional office. "This case demonstrates the SEC's commitment to holding companies and individuals at the highest corporate levels responsible when they mislead investors and fail to provide them with full and fair information..." —The Securities and Exchange Commission, Press Release, Feb, 27, 2020

Phasing Out of Poison Power

By Kristin Boland

In recent months four nuclear power reactors have been sent into decommissioning, three in Europe and one in the United States. The closing of each one brings encouragement and a reminder of the scale of the work which remains.

In December 2019, Switzerland turned off the Mühleberg reactor near Bern. Mühleberg had been in operation for 47 years; the work of decommissioning will require a team of 200 people and is expected to take 15 years, with the cost estimated to be at least \$1.4 billion. The closure of Mühleberg is part of Switzerland's commitment to transition away from nuclear power, opting instead for greater reliance on renewable energy.

Like Switzerland, the French government has begun a move away from nuclear power, although it currently operates 58 nuclear reactors that produce three-quarters of the country's electricity. The country has committed to close all reactors over 40 years old by 2023.

New York's Indian Point unit 2 was shut down April 30 and is in the process of being decommissioned, with full shut down of unit 3 in 2021. Indian Point sits on the Hudson River, in a densely populated area of the east coast 30 miles north of New York City. The decommissioning is estimated to be a 12 to 15 year project, costing \$2.3 billion.

The closing of each nuclear power reactor is worthy of celebration. Companies may close them because they're losing money, but governments around the globe are making life-affirming decisions to transition from dangerous nuclear power to sustainable energy sources.



Saugeen Ojibway Nation Votes No on Deep Geologic Repository

Saukiing Anishnaabekiing, Ontario—Collectively, the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation and the Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation are referred to as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON). Our Territory encompasses much of the Saugeen Peninsula, extending down south of Goderich and east of Collingwood. Between the two communities, we have over 4,500 members.

We were not consulted when the nuclear industry was established in our territory. Over the past forty years, nuclear power generation in Anishnaabekiing has had many impacts on our communities, and our land and waters, including the production and accumulation of nuclear waste.

In 2013, Ontario Power Generation committed to SON that it would not build the Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) without our support.

This vote marks a historic exercising of our Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and free, prior and informed consent in our Territory. The Communities have voted against the DGR. The vote results are as follows: 170 yes, 1,058 no, 4 spoiled ballots, 1,232 total votes.

"This vote was a historic milestone and momentous victory for our People. We worked for many years for our right to exercise jurisdiction in our territory and the free, prior and informed consent of our People to be recognized," said Chief Lester Anokot of Chippewas of Saugeen First Nation. "As Anishnaabe, we didn't ask for this waste to be created and stored in our territory, but it is here. We have a responsibility to our Mother Earth to protect both her and our lands and waters. Today, our People have voted against the DGR; this tells us that we must work diligently to find a new solution for the waste," he said.

"We will continue to work with OPG and others in the nuclear industry on developing new solutions for nuclear waste in our Territory. We know that the waste currently held in above-ground storage at the Bruce site will not go away. SON is committed to developing these solutions with our Communities and ensuring Mother Earth is protected for future generations. We will continue to ensure that our People will lead these processes and decisions," said Chief Greg Nadjiwon—Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation.

SON will now begin working closely with OPG and others in the nuclear industry to find an acceptable solution for the waste. This process may take many years. —Saugeen Ojibway Nation Chiefs and Councils, Press Release, Jan. 31, 2020

Egypt, 15 Others, Call for Nuclear Weapons Abolition

Egypt issued a joint statement with 16 countries demanding the elimination of nuclear weapons to mark the 50th anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The declaration was presented by Egypt, Malaysia, Austria, New Zealand, Ireland, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Indonesia, Nigeria, Algeria, Morocco, Thailand, Chile, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and the Philippines, representing 1.15 billion of the world's people.

The timing of the joint statement also marked the decision to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

Egypt's representative to the UN, Mohamed Edrees said that the statement includes clear and strong guidelines on the necessity for nuclear weapons

states to comply with the NPT's obligations. The statement pointed out that the coronavirus pandemic has clearly revealed many countries are investing resources on nuclear arsenals and their modernization, at the expense of economic or healthcare development.

"There should be international cooperation to counter such international cross-border crises, rather than spending on activities that pose an existential threat to humanity," the statement added.

—MENAFN, Alnaasher.com, and *Daily News Egypt*, May 20, 2020



'Running Shoes?'
RESOURCES

- * **Beyond Nuclear**, 7304 Carroll Avenue, #182, Takoma Park, MD 20912; (301) 270-2209; Web: beyondnuclear.org; Email: info@beyondnuclear.org
- * **Greenpeace**, +31-20-718-2000; Email: info.int@greenpeace.org; Web: greenpeace.org/international/
- * **Halt Holtec**, Web: facebook.com/HaltHoltec/
- * **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**, Email: info@icanw.org; +41-22788-2063; Web: icanw.org
- * **Kings Bay Plowshares**, PO Box 3087, Washington DC 20010; (607) 280-8797; Web: kingsbayplowshares7.org; Email: kingsbayplowshares@gmail.com
- * **Low-Level Radiation Campaign**, Email: mail@llrc.org; Web: llrc.org
- * **Native Community Action Council**, PO Box 46301, Las Vegas, NV 89114; Web: nativecommunityactioncouncil.org
- * **Nonviolent Action to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**, Beckstr. 14, 20357 Hamburg, Germany; +040-4307332; Email: marion.kuepker@gaaa.org; Web: gaaa.org
- * **Nuclear Information & Resource Service**, 6930 Carroll Av, #340, Takoma Park, MD 20912; (301) 270-NIRS; Email: nirsnet@nirs.org; Web: nirs.org
- * **Nuclear Issues Study Group**, Web: nuclearnewmexico.com; Email: protectnewmexico@gmail.com
- * **Nukewatch UK**, nukewatch.org.uk; +07796-226488
- * **Veterans for Peace**, 1404 North Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102; (314) 725-6005; Web: veteransforpeace.org; Email: vfp@veteransforpeace.org
- * **Voices for Creative Nonviolence**, 1249 W. Argyle St., #2, Chicago, IL 60640; Email: info@vcnv.org; (773) 878-3815; Web: vcnv.org
- * **Women Against Military Madness**, 4200 Cedar Ave S., Ste. #3, Minneapolis, MN 55407; (612) 827-5364; wome-nagainstmilitarymadness.org/



Nukewatch Quarterly

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ISSN: 1942-6305
Please subscribe. \$25/yr.
~ Printed on 100% recycled paper ~

Nukewatch is a project of The Progressive Foundation
a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
founded in 1979 by Samuel H. Day, Jr. and others

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