



## “Junk Science” used to kick nuclear cans down road at San Onofre

**Dateline, San Diego, Oct. 15, 2020–** Today, Public Watchdogs announced that it has filed a new petition requesting the NRC to demand a safety analysis of unanalyzed risks at the failed San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), from Southern California Edison, the owners of the beachfront San Onofre Nuclear Waste Dump.

[The 2.206 Petition](#), filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), states that Holtec, the company that makes the thin-walled stainless steel nuclear waste containers used at San Onofre, has claimed that the canisters can never crack open. According to Holtec’s *Final Safety Analysis Report*, a cracked canister -- and the leaking of deadly radiation that would result -- is “not credible.”

The Public Watchdogs’ complaint requests the NRC to demand documentation from Southern California Edison proving that its canisters won’t leak after the group received a response to its NRC Freedom of Information Request. The NRC response failed to provide evidence of analyses or tests that ascertained the integrity of the casks containing the nuclear waste.

### “Junk science”

According to Public Watchdogs’ expert, Paul Blanch, a former nuclear power plant executive and professional engineer, the failure to provide an analysis violates NRC’s Regulations. “The NRC says that a leak in one of these thin-walled cans is ‘not credible’ and therefore impossible,” says Blanch. “That lack of analysis is junk science. Fukushima, Three-Mile Island, and Chernobyl were all ‘not credible.’”

Charles Langley, Public Watchdogs’ executive director, and co-author claims that the NRC uses circular reasoning to justify its failure to analyze the threat: “Holtec says its canisters can’t crack open because they can’t crack open. Stainless steel is not likely to rust, but it can lose integrity from [stress corrosion cracking](#) and other mechanisms which occurred in stainless steel components at [other nuclear power plants](#).”

Public Watchdogs is demanding the NRC order SCE and Holtec provide testing and analysis as required by Federal Regulations ([10 CFR 72.236\(l\)](#))

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