

DAVID FRITCH STATEMENT

August 9, 2018 San Onofre Community Engagement Panel (CEP) meeting, Oceanside, CA

“Thank you, my name is David Fritch. I, uh, I'm a worker on the ISFSI project. I work in the spent fuel project – F-R-I-T-C-H. I do industrial safety, so OSHA stuff, not nuclear stuff, but I'm out there.

And uh, I may not have a job tomorrow for what I'm about to say, but that's fine. Uh because I made a promise to my daughter that if no one else talked about what happened on Friday, that I would.

About 12:30, August 3rd we were downloading, and uh the canister didn't download, but the rigging came all the way down. Uh, there were gross errors on the part of two individuals. There were gross errors on the part of two, two individuals, the operator, and the rigger, um, that are inexplicable.

Um, so what we have is is a canister that could have fallen 18 feet. That's a bad day. That happened. And you haven't heard about it. And that's not right.

My friend here is right, public safety should be first. And I've been around nuclear for many years. It's not. Behind that gate, it's not.

Here's a few things that I've observed in the three months I've been here.

SCWE, um, the Safety Conscious Work Environment, where people are constantly, uh, given, um, encouragement to raise concerns. It's not repeatedly or even, I've never even received SCWE training since I've been on site. That's not standard for a nuclear site.

Um, operational experience is not shared. That problem had occurred before, but it wasn't shared with the crew that was working.

We're undermanned. We don't have the the the proper personnel to get things done safely.

And certainly undertrained. Uh, many of the experienced supervisors, what we call uh CLS's, Cask Load Supervisors, once they understand the project and how everything works, are often sent away, and we get new ones that don't understand as well as even the craft, basic construction craft. And a lot of them who haven't been around nuclear before are performing these tasks - not technicians, not highly trained, not not thorough briefs.

Um, this is an engineering problem. What happened is, um, inside of that cask there's a guide ring about four feet down. And it's to guide that canister down correctly to be centered in the system. Well, it actually caught that. And from what I understand, it was hanging by about a quarter inch.

So, obviously, the point is, uh clear. Um, as people said, Edison is not forthright about what's going on. I'm sure they'll tell you that they were going to bring this out once it was analyzed, etcetera, etcetera. I'm sure they're preparing what they would answer if it comes out.

Um, and I came here tonight to see if this event would be shared with the community. And I was, I was disappointed to see that it was not.

And I want to thank the community of San Clemente. It's a beautiful, wonderful community with amazing people. You've been great to me. My family's here with me for the month.

Um, and unless Edison and Holtec commit to defining success on this project as safety, and I'm not, I'm not talking about any of the concerns voiced today, I'm just talking about downloading – getting the fuel out of the building safely.

Um, and, and, and are we going to address what would have happened to that canister if it would have fallen? Even if the shell wasn't penetrated, now will, will they take it in a repository site?

Um, the question is, will, will Edison and Holtec commit to defining success primarily in terms of nuclear safety. And there will there be transparency, commitment to safety, and the financial commitment to make sure that it's done successfully. Thank you. “

Source: Southern California Edison video, starting at 2:20:00
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