

THE ECOLOGICAL OPTIONS NETWORK PRESENTS

SOS

THE **SAN ONOFRE** SYNDROME

— *Nuclear Power's Legacy* —

PRESS KIT



A FILM BY
JAMES HEDDLE, MARY BETH BRANGAN & MORGAN PETERSON

sanonofresyndrome.com

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FESTIVALS & FEATURED SCREENINGS

AWARDS

- Awareness Film Festival Los Angeles 2023 - **Grand Jury Award For Documentary Feature**
- International Uranium Film Festival 2024 - Río de Janeiro - **Best Educational Documentary**
- Documentaries Without Borders International Film Festival 2024 - **Outstanding Excellence**

OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

- International Uranium Film Festival 2024 - Chicago
- Nature Without Borders Film Festival 2024 - United States

TECHNICAL DATA

Year: 2023

Runtime (min): 97

Language: English

Country: United States

Premiere: Los Angeles, CA Awareness Film Festival

Genre: Documentary

Subtitle Language: English, Spanish, Japanese (in process)

Screening Formats: DCP, blu-ray, mp4

LOGLINE

SOS - The San Onofre Syndrome: Nuclear Power's Legacy issues a crucial warning that nuclear power plants' intensely radioactive waste is putting communities at grave risk.

SOS is an urgent call to action. Will we rally to implement this lifeline in time?

SYNOPSIS

Filmed over 12 years, SOS - The San Onofre Syndrome: Nuclear Power's Legacy dramatically chronicles how Southern California residents came together to force the shutdown of an aging nuclear power plant only to be confronted by an alarming reality: tons of nuclear waste left near a popular beach, only 100 feet from the rising sea, that —with radioactivity lasting millions of years—menaces present and future generations.

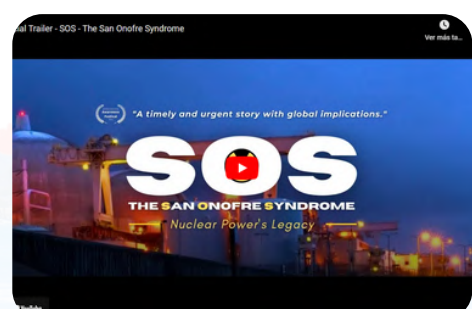
The film portrays San Onofre as a microcosm of this national problem — the mismanagement of lethal radioactive waste lasting millennia.

This is a syndrome shared by all 55 nuclear reactor sites across the United States.

SOS spotlights the essential role citizens must play to ensure public safety is the top priority. Told largely through the eyes of five main characters, we witness how they mobilize their communities, become experts on the issues, and tactically wiser in the face of adversity.

SOS - The San Onofre Syndrome: Nuclear Power's Legacy is a critical warning that America's 55 nuclear power plants, each with their own tons of intensely radioactive waste in inadequate temporary containers are putting their local communities and national security at grave risk.

TRAILER



ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS



MARY BETH BRANGAN (Producer/Co-Director) is an author, award-winning filmmaker and an experienced organizer at the community, state, national and international levels. She is the Executive-Director and co-founder with her partner, James Heddle of EON, the Ecological Options Network, a non-profit organization. EON's films have been broadcast on PBS nationally and broadcast internationally and have been screened at the United Nations, the US Congress and Parliaments, libraries and universities worldwide.



JAMES HEDDLE (Co-Director/Director of Photography) has been a filmmaker and writer for the last forty years of his life. Before that he worked in civil rights as an inter-group relations professional, then as a university teacher and administrator in communications and psychology before going freelance as a media producer. With his partner Mary Beth Brangan he co-founded and co-directs EON – the Ecological Options Network, a non-profit education and media company.



MORGAN PETERSON (Co-Director/Editor) is a graduate of the UCLA School of Film and Television. Peterson was producer of the 2018 Oscar-nominated short film DeKalb Elementary, and the feature documentary Bronies: The Extremely Unlikely Adult Fans of My Little Pony (2012). She is writer/director for the award-winning shorts I'll Take Care Of You (2014), The Greats (2015), and Bloodlust (2018).



CHRISTOPHER HEDGE (Composer) is an award winning composer. He is known for his records and film soundtracks. Hedge has collaborated with many unique musicians to blend forms from around the world. He is committed to scoring films with social and environmental goals. Creating music with purpose has earned him widespread recognition.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

After the triple meltdown at Fukushima, James and Mary Beth, having worked on nuclear issues for decades, both as activists and filmmakers, realized we needed to do whatever we could to prevent the same catastrophe from happening on the West Coast. Here in California, we had two nuclear power plants with four reactors perched on the edge of the Pacific, surrounded by earthquake faults and tsunami zones, just like in Fukushima. That began a ten-year trek up and down the coast from the San Francisco Bay area to Southern California, documenting with our cameras the dramatic revelations, industry maneuvers, and brave community actions attempting to deal with the horrific legacy of producing electricity from splitting uranium atoms.

We teamed up with filmmaker Morgan Peterson and began the work of whittling down our hundreds of hours of footage into a compelling narrative. We believe that film is one of the most powerful tools in reaching citizens who are unaware of the dangerous decisions being made that leave our communities vulnerable to a nuclear disaster. In telling the story of San Onofre, we hope our documentary SOS – The San Onofre Syndrome: Nuclear Power's Legacy helps rally folks here in California and across the U.S. to get informed and organize to mitigate the enormous threat posed by this deadly waste-lasting millions of years to both local public safety and to national security.

FEATURED CAST



Gary and Laurie Headrick

Co-founders of San Clemente Green. Laurie is a grade school teacher, and Gary is an artist and professional architectural drawings draftsman.



Torgen Johnson

Urban Planner, father of four children. He is the principal architect at Johnson Design.



Donna Gilmore

Founder of San Onofre Safety (retired IT manager and Systems Analyst).



Dan Hirsch

Founder of Committee to Bridge the Gap. Director, Program on Environmental and Nuclear Policy, University of California, Santa Cruz (retired)



Karen Hadden

Executive Director of the SEED (Sustainable Energy and Economic Development) Coalition.



Gordon Edwards

Mathematician, physicist, nuclear consultant, and president of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility (ccnr.org). He's based in Montreal.



Rose Gardner

Co-founder of the Alliance for Environmental Strategies & No Nuclear Waste Aquí.

SOS - THE SAN ONOFRE SYNDROME in the NEWS

NUCLEAR HOTSEAT - Sept. 26, 2023

By Libbe Halevy

"SOS - San Onofre Syndrome" Film is a Knock Out!

HISPANICLA - Oct. 5, 2023

Por James Heddle y Mary Beth Brangan

El poder del pueblo en el callejón nuclear

LOS ÁNGELES LATINO - Oct. 5, 2023

By James Heddle and Mary Beth Brangan

People Power on Nuclear Alley

COUNTERPUNCH - Oct. 8, 2023

By Ed Rampell

Nuclear Plant is Ground Zero in SOS - The San Onofre Syndrome

SAN CLEMENTE TIMES / DANA POINT TIMES -

Oct. 13, 2023

By C. Jayden Smith

Local Officials to Gather for Screening of Award-Winning Documentary on SONGS

KATIE SINGER'S SUBSTACK - Oct. 13, 2023

By Katie Singer

Exploring humanness during radioactive times: a review of "SOS: The San Onofre Syndrome: Nuclear Power's Legacy"

O.C. REGISTER - Oct. 18, 2023

By Teri Sforza

Big Changes Underway as San Onofre Nuclear Plant Comes Down

FREQUENTLY UN-ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY, WEAPONS AND WASTE

1. Is there really any reason to get all worried about the biological effects of exposure to radioactivity?

- a. Only if you care about public health and safety, the integrity of the planetary genome, your own DNA and that of your children and future decedents.
- b. Exposure to radioactivity causes irreversible damage to the DNA and immune systems of all living things. In humans it causes cancers of many types and opens the way to a host of infectious diseases, many of them fatal.

2. Are there really any serious connections between nuclear energy, weapons and waste?

Yes, there are. As we have documented elsewhere (for example, [here](#), [here](#) & [here](#)), they have been inextricably connected since the birth of the Atomic Age. Eisenhower's Atoms for Peace sought successfully to mute and blur the energy-weapons connection. For subsequent decades, nuclear advocates poo-poo-ed any serious connection. But of late, proponents of a new age of nuclear energy, like former U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, have taken to boasting about the co-dependence of the nuclear energy and weapons industries. They stress that a commercial nuclear power industry is a vital support for the nuclear weapons industry. It provides the technical and manufacturing infrastructure and educated technical labor and management force that are vital and necessary supports for ongoing nuclear weapons development and the maintenance of the nuclear navy.

3. What is the Nuclear Enterprise, and what is its connection to the Permanent War Economy?

It grew out of WWII as a key component of what Eisenhower would later famously dub the 'Military-Industrial-Complex,' ironically aided by Ike's other invention the Atoms for Peace project. It has by now morphed and metastasized and come to bind industries and countries together in what M.I.T. historian Prof. Kate Brown has dubbed Plutopia, [See Question 1] a global system devoted to the production and utilization of plutonium – a man-made element that does not occur in nature - aptly tagged Pu; the most toxic man-made element known.

4. What are the causes of climate change and why is nuclear energy not 'The 'Solution'??
5. Why is nuclear energy not a 'sustainable solution' for climate change?
6. Why is there no U.S. federal deep geological repository for the nation's tons of accumulated high-level radioactive power plant waste?
7. Why is so-called CIS, or Consolidated Interim Storage, not a viable response to the nation's radioactive waste management challenges?

8. Why are the Holtec thin-walled, stainless steel canisters being used to store highly thermally hot and radioactive used fuel rods for an indefinite period into the future at multiple reactor sites around the country a grave risk to public safety and environmental security?
9. Why can't these fragile canisters be legally and safely moved by road, rail and barge to other locations, as proponents speciously claim?
10. Why is extended operation of old, existing legacy nuclear power plants a risk to public safety, national security, 'grid stability,' and environmental protection?
11. Why is the development, mass production and widespread deployment of Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNRs) a Very Bad Idea?
12. Why can't the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and other public regulatory bodies be trusted to protect public and environmental safety over industry profits?
13. Why are total abolition of nuclear energy and weapons, and perpetual 'rolling stewardship' of accumulated radioactive waste the only rational and ethical societal responses to the multiple threats posed by the Nuclear Enterprise?

ADDITIONAL CREDITS

Sound Design	Christopher Hedge	"San Onofre Blues"
Color Grader	Gary Coates	Song by Josh Weigel and The Well Shift
Animator	TheBureau.tv	
Impact Producers	MocaMedia.tv	
	Lisa Smithline and Chelo Alvarez-Stehle	

SOS - The San Onofre Syndrome: Nuclear Power's Legacy is an Ecological Options Network (EON) production. The film is directed by James Heddle, Mary Beth Brangan and Morgan Peterson, produced/executive produced by Mary Beth Brangan, edited by Morgan Peterson. Christopher Hedge is the composer. Mocamedia runs the impact campaign with Lisa Smithline and Chelo Alvarez-Stehle as Impact Producers.


#environmentaljustice #nuclearlegacy #nuclearjustice #nuclearenterprise #radioactivewaste
#nuclearwaste #nuclearthreat #SanOnofreSyndromeFilm

FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS


San Clemente Green
 San Onofre Safety
 Committee to Bridge the Gap
 Fairewinds Energy Education
 Sustainable Energy & Economic Development - SEED
 Coalition Alliance for Environmental Strategies
 Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility

DOWNLOAD LINK TO IMAGES

- POSTER high-res HEADSHOTS
- High-res FILM STILLS
- High-res PRODUCTION STILLS

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