



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

MAY 8 2000

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Emergency Preparedness and Health Physics Section
Operator Licensing, Human Performance, and
Plant Support Branch
Division of Inspection Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Fox:

This is in response to your request for assistance dated February 22, 2000, in addressing concerns received by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) involving the adequacy of public education and information available for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), located in California.

In response to your request, the following is an overview of the public education and information program for SONGS:

Public information about SONGS is provided as Emergency and Non-Emergency information. Emergency information is provided during an event by an Emergency Alert System (EAS) message supplemented by media releases from local and state government sources. During an emergency, media information by plan is to be disseminated through the Emergency News Center, which has Spanish-speaking staff specifically identified for the task of providing information to the media in Spanish.

Non-Emergency information is disseminated in several forms as follows:

1. The first two forms of public information are published by Southern California Edison (SCE) with the approval of the jurisdictions that make up the Interjurisdictional Planning Committee (IPC). This includes information provided in the Pacific Bell Telephone Book (Orange County and San Diego North), and information provided through a separate mailing sent out prior to the annual Community Alert Siren System test.
 - a. Public information about "Nuclear Emergency Information" can be found in the Pacific Bell telephone Book, Customer Guide, Pages 32-35. This information is intended to meet the public information requirements of NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1 for both the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone and the 20-mile public education zone. This information is updated

Enclosure

annually by SCE staff after being reviewed by local government representatives. In years past, SCE sent out a glossy mailer on an annual basis, but it was decided that the public would be able to find the phone book more quickly than a mailer when emergency information is needed. SCE also explained that it was more cost effective to put the information in the phone book. EAS messages sent out by local government would direct the public to turn to the phone book for additional information about what to do in an emergency.

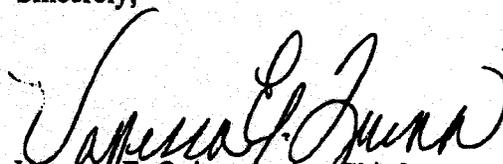
- b. Prior to the annual siren test, SCE sends out a brochure announcing the siren test to all addresses within the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone. The mailer describes the siren test, the time and date of the test, and includes a card that can be completed by those who might need special transportation in an emergency. This special needs data base is maintained by Orange County Emergency Management. The mailer also includes a Spanish information card, in addition to the special needs information card. The Spanish "request for information" card is a postage paid return postcard on which the person provides their name and address. Upon receipt of the card, SCE provides a copy of the Spanish language emergency instructions information. The mailer with return cards is provided to every residence and business address and every post office box in the SONGS Emergency Planning Zone. SCE mailed approximately 60,000 mailers this past year. In addition to information about the test, the special needs card, and the Spanish information card, the mailer reminds everyone that the emergency instructions are in the phone book.
2. SCE Public Affairs provides the third form of information. This information is provided through media releases, tours, community education programs, the SONGS web page (www.scc.com/songs), and other types of community outreach. SCE has an active program of providing educational materials to principals and teachers in 18 public and nine private schools in the vicinity of the plant, and staff is available for speaking engagements in the schools if requested. SCE supports community events and maintains a strong visibility in the community. In response to regular requests, SCE provides Spanish Language brochures as described above to the schools to provide to children of Spanish speaking parents. SCE provide separate brochures tailored to Marine Corps dependents. These brochures are distributed in "welcome packets" upon arrival at Camp Pendelton.
3. Local government emergency planners provide the fourth form of information. When requested, local government representatives discuss their active involvement in emergency planning, training, and exercises. They explain how their plans and preparedness comply with federal regulations for nuclear power plant planning, and how all of the above-mentioned activities are evaluated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to ensure the protection of the public.

However, there is concern as to whether a comprehensive brochure is published and provided to the residents on at least a once-every-third-year basis. As you are aware, SONGS asked to reduce the frequency of publishing an annual brochure because of the cost. Our staffs agreed that, in order to accommodate a licensee's attempt at cost savings, we would require a comprehensive public information brochure only triennially (once every three years). This brochure, along with other means of disseminating emergency information to the public (such as inserts in the telephone directory) would adequately provide the residents with accessible information.

Except for our concern over what provisions SONGS has in its emergency plan for the comprehensive brochure, the other public education and dissemination measures outlined in this letter appear to be adequate to fulfill the requirements of NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1 and FEMA guidance.

Please inform me as to what is included in the SONGS plan and the status of an every-third-year brochure. If you have any further concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 646-3664.

Sincerely,



Vanessa E. Quinn, Acting Chief
Radiological Emergency Preparedness
Branch