

August 2, 2001

Mr. Harold B. Ray
Executive Vice President
Southern California Edison Company
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
P.O. Box 128
San Clemente, CA 92674-0128

SUBJECT: SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION SEISMIC DESIGN BASIS

Dear Mr. Ray:

On June 15, 2001, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission responded to a petition filed by Ms. Patricia Borchmann on April 17, 2001, pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 of NRC regulations. The petition concerned decommissioning and spent fuel dry cask storage issues at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). Although the petitioner's requests were denied in our response, we noted that material submitted with the petition identified issues regarding the seismic design basis for SONGS that warrant further evaluation.

Enclosed is a copy of Exhibit Two of the April 17, 2001, petition from Ms. Borchmann. The Exhibit contained the comments by Mark Legg, Ph.D., concerning the seismic characteristics at SONGS. Of particular interest is item Number 2 in Dr. Legg's remarks, stating that the major Oceanside detachment/thrust system underlies SONGS, and that earthquakes could occur that may generate effects in excess of the level assumed in the design basis for the plant.

As part of the NRC staff evaluation of the issue, we request that as the licensee for SONGS, you provide to the NRC your assessment of the information presented by Dr. Legg in item Number 2 of his comments. Include in your assessment consideration of any applicable references cited in his comments. We request your assessment be provided to the NRC by September 15, 2001. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the NRC project manager for SONGS Units 2 and 3, Joseph Donoghue at (301) 415-1131.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen Dembek, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encls: See next page

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Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362

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NRR-106

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