

November 20, 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: BULLETIN 2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES," RESPONSES FOR SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3 (TAC NOS. MB2657 AND MB2658)

Dear Mr. Ray:

On August 3, 2001, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," to the industry requesting that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor pressure vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles for their respective facilities, including the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking that has been found to date, the inspections and repairs that have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, and the basis for concluding that their plans for future inspections will ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized water reactor (PWR) plants. You were requested to respond to Items 1 and 4 of the bulletin within 30 days of its issuance.

You provided your response for San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), Units 2 and 3, by letter dated August 31, 2001. In your response, you stated that SONGS, Units 2 and 3, are in the category of plants with moderate susceptibility to circumferential cracking of the VHP nozzles and have not previously experienced either leakage from or cracking in the nozzles.

The NRC staff finds, after review of your response to the bulletin, that you have provided the information requested by the bulletin and that the information is acceptable. Based on this information, the NRC staff concludes that there is reasonable assurance that the public health and safety will be maintained. Your proposed inspection scope and schedule described in your response, which included the description of your plan to examine "all" or "100 percent" of the VHPs at your facility during the next scheduled outage, were integral to the NRC staff's finding. It is the NRC staff's expectation that you will submit a revised response to the bulletin if you make any substantive changes to the schedule and/or scope of future inspections. If warranted by such changes, the NRC staff will reevaluate this issue. As stated in your response, you have committed to provide the following information within 30 days after plant restart following the next refueling outages at SONGS, Units 2 and 3:

Harold B. Ray

- 2 -

- a. a description of the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking detected at your plant, including the number, location, size, and nature of each crack detected; and
- b. if cracking is identified, a description of the inspections (type, scope, qualification requirements, and acceptance criteria), repairs, and other corrective actions you have taken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. This information is requested only if there are any changes from prior information submitted in accordance with this bulletin.

This closes out the NRC staff's review of your response to Bulletin 2001-01, and closes out TAC Nos. MB2657 and MB2658 for SONGS, Units 2 and 3, respectively. If you have any questions, contact me at 301-415-1307, or through the internet at [jnd@nrc.gov](mailto:jnd@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Jack Donohew, Senior Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate IV  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362

cc: See next page

Harold B. Ray

- 2 -

- a. a description of the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking detected at your plant, including the number, location, size, and nature of each crack detected; and
- b. if cracking is identified, a description of the inspections (type, scope, qualification requirements, and acceptance criteria), repairs, and other corrective actions you have taken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. This information is requested only if there are any changes from prior information submitted in accordance with this bulletin.

This closes out the NRC staff's review of your response to Bulletin 2001-01, and closes out TAC Nos. MB2657 and MB2658 for SONGS, Units 2 and 3, respectively. If you have any questions, contact me at 301-415-1307, or through the internet at [jnd@nrc.gov](mailto:jnd@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Jack Donohew, Senior Project Manager, Section 2  
 Project Directorate IV  
 Division of Licensing Project Management  
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION

PUBLIC

PDIV-2 Reading

RidsNrrDlpmPdiv(SRichards)

RidsNrrSCSDembek

RidsNrrPMJDonohew

RidsNrrLAMMcAllister

RidsOgcRp

RidsAcrcAcnwMailCenter

KKennedy, RIV

WBateman (EMCB Reading)

RidsNrrPMJZimmerman

RidsNrrPMLBurkhart

AHiser

JCollins

**ACCESSION NO.: ML013170167**

**NRR-106**

OFFICE	PDIV-2/PM	PDIV-1/LA	PDIV-2/SC
NAME	JDonohew:as	MMcAllister	SDembek
DATE	11/19/2001	11/15/01	11/20/2001

DOCUMENT NAME: C:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat 4.0\PDF  
 Output\BL2001-01CloseoutLetter.son~.wpd

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY



San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3

cc:

Mr. R. W. Krieger, Vice President  
Southern California Edison Company  
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station  
P. O. Box 128  
San Clemente, CA 92674-0128

Mr. Douglas K. Porter  
Southern California Edison Company  
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue  
Rosemead, CA 91770

Mr. David Spath, Chief  
Division of Drinking Water and  
Environmental Management  
P. O. Box 942732  
Sacramento, CA 94234-7320

Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
County of San Diego  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335  
San Diego, CA 92101

Alan R. Watts, Esq.  
Woodruff, Spradlin & Smart  
701 S. Parker St. No. 7000  
Orange, CA 92668-4720

Mr. Sherwin Harris  
Resource Project Manager  
Public Utilities Department  
City of Riverside  
3900 Main Street  
Riverside, CA 92522

Regional Administrator, Region IV  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 76011-8064

Mr. Michael Olson  
San Onofre Liaison  
San Diego Gas & Electric Company  
P.O. Box 1831  
San Diego, CA 92112-4150

Mr. Steve Hsu  
Radiologic Health Branch  
State Department of Health Services  
Post Office Box 942732  
Sacramento, CA 94327-7320

Mr. Ed Bailey, Radiation Program Director  
Radiologic Health Branch  
State Department of Health Services  
Post Office Box 942732 (MS 178)  
Sacramento, CA 94327-7320

Resident Inspector/San Onofre NPS  
c/o U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Post Office Box 4329  
San Clemente, CA 92674

Mayor  
City of San Clemente  
100 Avenida Presidio  
San Clemente, CA 92672

Mr. Dwight E. Nunn, Vice President  
Southern California Edison Company  
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station  
P.O. Box 128  
San Clemente, CA 92674-0128

Mr. Robert A. Laurie, Commissioner  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street (MS 31)  
Sacramento, CA 95814