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:

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.

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

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.

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

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