

PRIORITY ATTENTION REQUIRED MORNING REPORT - REGION V FEBRUARY 26, 1993

Licensee/Facility:

Southern California Edison & San Diego Gas & Electric Co.
San Onofre 2 3

Notification:

MR Number: 5-93-0014
Date: 02/26/93
CALL FROM THE RESIDENTS

Camp Pendleton, California
Dockets: 50-361,50-362
PWR/CE, PWR/CE

Subject: REDUCTION IN REACTOR POWER

Reportable Event Number: N/A

Discussion:

San Onofre Units 2 and 3 reduced power to approximately 80% on February 25, 1993, after determining that the core protection calculator (CPC) may be calculating DNB ratios in a non-conservative manner.

On February 24, 1993, the licensee observed differences between the core axial power shape calculated by the core operating limits supervisory system (COLSS) using in-core detector signals and the core axial power shape calculated by the CPC using ex-core detector signals. The differences were observed during a data review and indicated that calculated power at the top of the core was less using the CPC than using the COLSS. As a result of the difference, the licensee concluded that DNB ratios calculated by the CPC may be non-conservative because the core power used in the calculation may be less than actual core power.

The licensee indicated that the data from the COLSS represents expected core performance and is more accurate due to the more numerous incore detectors and believes that a software problem in the CPC is responsible for the differences in the calculated core axial power shape.

After discussions with Combustion Engineering, the licensee determined that a 15% penalty factor should be put into the CPC to account for any possible non-conservatism in calculated DNB ratios.

The licensee continues to investigate this problem. Region V and NRR will participate in a conference call with the licensee at 10:30 AM (PST) on February 26, 1993, to discuss this problem. The licensee will discuss the results of their evaluation with NRC prior to removing the penalty factor and increasing power level.

Regional Action:

The NRC Resident inspectors are monitoring the licensee's actions.

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