

September 27, 2002

Ms. Patricia Borchmann
176 Walker Way
Vista, CA 92083

Dear Ms. Borchmann:

In a petition dated April 17, 2001, you requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) revoke prior permit approvals for decommissioning San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), Unit 1 and suspend further decommissioning work. In addition, you requested that NRC suspend or revoke all permit approvals to date involving dry cask storage of spent high-level radioactive waste at SONGS. You requested that these actions be taken until NRC completes an independent review and evaluation of all materials presented in your petition and associated exhibits.

In a letter dated June 15, 2001, the NRC staff responded to your letter, citing reasons why your request did not meet the requirements of Section 2.206 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) to be considered a petition. However, the Petition Review Board (PRB) at the time also determined that your concerns pertaining to the seismic design basis of SONGS warranted further NRC attention. I am writing to inform you of NRC's recent findings with regard to the seismic design basis for SONGS.

Following the PRB's recommendation to further evaluate seismic design basis concerns for SONGS, the NRC staff requested the licensee, Southern California Edison (SCE), to respond to the information presented by Dr. Mark R. Legg on the Oceanside detachment/thrust system. By letters dated September 21, 2001 and December 27, 2001 (Enclosures 1 and 2), SCE provided their preliminary and final responses to NRC, respectively. Copies of these responses were previously forwarded to you in an NRC letter dated March 27, 2002.

Upon review of SCE's seismic hazard assessment for SONGS, which included an extensive study using seismic source characterization, global positioning system data, and probabilistic seismic hazard analysis, the NRC staff concurs with SCE's assessment that the postulated blind thrust faults do not appreciably change the seismic risk at SONGS. Enclosure 3 is a copy of NRC's review and Safety Evaluation of SCE's assessment.

P. Borchmann

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In conclusion, based on further evaluation of the seismic design basis of SONGS, the NRC staff continues to believe that the public is adequately protected from the hazards of core damage and radiation release due to seismic activity. If you have questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Bo Pham at 301-415-8450.

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

Enclosures: 1. Letter from SCE to NRC with enclosure, September 21, 2001
 2. Letter from SCE to NRC with enclosure, December 27, 2001
 3. Letter from NRC to SCE with enclosure, September 24, 2002

P. Borchmann

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In conclusion, based on further evaluation of the seismic design basis of SONGS, the NRC staff continues to believe that the public is adequately protected from the hazards of core damage and radiation release due to seismic activity. If you have questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Bo Pham at 301-415-8450.

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Enclosures: 1. Letter from SCE to NRC with enclosure, September 21, 2001
2. Letter from SCE to NRC with enclosure, December 27, 2001
3. Letter from NRC to SCE with enclosure, September 24, 2002

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