

February 10, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Stephen Dembek, Chief, Section 2  
Project Directorate IV  
Division of Licensing Project Management

FROM: Bo M. Pham, Project Manager, Section 2 **/RA/**  
Project Directorate IV  
Division of Licensing Project Management

SUBJECT: SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - CONFERENCE  
CALL SUMMARY REGARDING PRESSURIZER INSPECTION

On January 16, 2004, the NRC staff held a tele-conference with Southern California Edison (SCE) regarding their upcoming February outage for San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), Unit 2 and the licensee's plans for inspecting the pressurizer heater sleeves, instrument nozzle, vent line, and other components on the pressurizer. The following are discussion highlights.

- (1) SCE plans to perform 100 percent bare metal visual (BMV) examination of all 30 heater sleeve penetrations and all 7 instrument line penetrations (4 at top, 1 on side, 2 on bottom of pressurizer). In addition, SCE will look for leakage past the mechanical nozzle seal assembly (MNSA) where they are installed. Leakage has not been observed from pressurizer heater sleeves during previous refueling outages, but Unit 2 has had leaking instrument line penetrations (no cracks have been characterized as circumferential, however). Alloy 52/152/690 repairs have been implemented on all instrument line penetrations.
- (2) If leakage is discovered as the plant is shutting down or during the outage, the licensee plans to do non-destructive examination (NDE) (eddy current) to characterize all cracks from 1" above to 1" below the attachment weld (an inspection volume that they believe adequately covers the zone in which primary water stress corrosion cracking would be expected based on weld residual stresses). The same scope of NDE would be performed if SCE had to remove a pressurizer heater for any other reason (even if not leaking) and had access to the inside surface of the heater sleeve. Leaking sleeves are to be repaired by the half-nozzle repair option. The staff noted that SCE may need a relief request to perform this half-nozzle repair. SCE agreed to look further into this issue and respond back to the staff.
- (3) The staff and SCE agreed that if circumferential cracking below the attachment weld is discovered, NDE inspection scope expansion would be discussed between SCE and the staff.
- (4) If leakage is discovered when the unit is on power ascension, SCE plans to repair the leakage with a MNSA and characterize the source of the leakage during the next refueling outage. The staff informed SCE that we did not agree with that proposed course of action, and would rather see the pressure boundary inspected by NDE

immediately if leakage is found. SCE acknowledged that they understood our position, and agreed to consider the issue further.

- (5) SCE noted that it is looking into the feasibility of BMV examination of piping butt welds, but were not planning to inspect the four at the top of the pressurizer (three safety valves, one spray valve) at this time. The staff noted that, due to the environment in the pressurizer, we were interested in what licensees were doing to manage degradation in all susceptible Inconel materials within that general area. The staff encouraged SCE to consider taking the appropriate steps to perform BMV examinations of the four butt welded connections at the top of the pressurizer. SCE committed to evaluate that course of action and respond back to the staff.

Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362

cc: See next page

## **CONFERENCE CALL ATTENDEES**

**January 16, 2004**

### **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY**

Ed Sherer  
Jack Rainsberry  
Tom Raidy  
Eric Schoonover  
Pete Wilkens  
Mehrddad Hojati

### **NRC**

Stephanie Coffin  
Matthew Mitcehl  
Bo Pham  
Charles Paulk, Region IV  
James Adams, Region IV  
Clyde Osterholtz, Region IV  
Mark Sitek, Region IV

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**NRR-001**

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