

May 20, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Robert Gramm, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Bo Pham, Project Manager, Section 2 /RA/
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON MAY 3, 2005, WITH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON TO DISCUSS PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR 218KV GRID VOLTAGE SETPOINT AT SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION (SONGS), UNITS 2 AND 3 (TAC NOS. MC6571 AND MC6572)

On May 3, 2005, Southern California Edison (SCE or the licensee) met with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff to discuss its proposed resolution to recent findings regarding the 218kV setpoint for degraded voltage protection.

The NRC opened the meeting with comments about the purpose of the meeting, which the licensee has asked for in order to give the NRC staff a comprehensive overview of the issue. The licensee next gave its presentation, attached and available on the Agency Document Access and Management System (Accession No. ML051310338), which described the background, on-going development, and proposed resolution for a recently discovered condition with the 218kV setpoint for degraded voltage protection.

The 218kV set point for degraded voltage protection is intended for plant equipment protection during sustained low or loss of grid voltage. During its presentation, SCE gave a description of the relay that was originally designed and then a description of the new relay design that was installed as a result of a modification in 1995 to serve the specific degraded grid function. In a case where a plant trip occurred at SONGS while only one unit was operating, the degraded voltage protection at 218kV causes that unit to separate from off-site power and shift to its diesel generators as a means to power 1E Safety Related plant equipment. The degraded voltage protection relay protects 1E electrical equipment from damage due to insufficient voltage; however, due to relay design, the relay requires a higher voltage to ensure reset of the relay so that the 1E electrical buses continue to be supplied from the offsite source. A recent inspection by the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations caused SCE to question the minimum required offsite required voltage level to remain on offsite sources. It was determined that a voltage of at least 222.2kV was required to remain on offsite sources versus 218kV as originally determined. As a consequence, an undesired configuration could result with a unit at SONGS being powered by the diesel generator even though grid/off-site power was available above 218kV.

As an immediate compensatory measure, with one unit shutdown, off-site power will be declared inoperable if the grid cannot maintain 222.2kV or greater after the operating unit trips. SCE's short-term corrective action will be to lower the degraded voltage protection relay setpoint to approximately 221.3kV (does not require a technical specification (TS) change), which will give the grid operator additional margin for maintaining grid voltage. This will be accomplished by improved tolerances imposed for the relay calibration. As a longer term action, the licensee proposes to submit an exigent TS license amendment request to further lower the relay setpoint to allow the units to remain connected to off-site power above 218kV. This will be accomplished by reanalysis to demonstrate equipment protection to allow lower offsite voltage levels.

The NRC staff indicated that it understood the licensee's urgent intention for resolving the issue, and would provide the additional specific guidance for the submittal; however, it would still need to review the rationale of such a submittal in order to accept it as an exigent request. The licensee anticipates a TS amendment request submittal by May 27, 2005, and seeks NRC approval by July 1, 2005.

A list of meeting attendees is attached.

Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362

Attachment: As stated

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ATTENDEES

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MAY 3, 2005

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