



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Diego Region



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100, San Diego, California 92123-4353
(858) 467-2952 • Fax (858) 571-6972
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego>

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August 23, 2006

In reply refer to:
NCRU:13-0087.02:CCheng

RECEIVED

AUG 25 2006

Robert K. Heckler
Environmental Specialist
Southern California Edison Company
P.O. Box 128 (W44)
San Clemente, CA 92674

DNMS

Dear Mr. Heckler :

SUBJECT: TRITIUM DETECTION IN GROUNDWATER UNDER UNIT 1, SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY, SAN DIEGO COUNTY

The Regional Board has been contacted by the media and interested persons about a reported leak of tritium at the Unit 1 facility at your company's San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. Based on an August 18, 2006 discussion with you and Mr. Eric Becker of the Northern Core Regulatory Unit staff, it is my understanding that the radioactive constituent tritium has been detected in groundwater under Unit 1 at the station. You have reported that the tritium is restricted to an area under the unit and that any groundwater extracted from under Unit 1 is monitored for radioactive material prior to discharge through the ocean outfall. Although groundwater extraction from under Unit 1 is permitted under Order Nos. R9-2005-005 and 006 and addenda thereto, I remain concerned that radioactive pollutants may be discharged into the Pacific Ocean at levels that impact water quality.

It is also my understanding that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is monitoring the discharge of tritium at the Unit 1 site.

Pursuant to California Water Code Section 13267, I direct you to submit a technical report **no later than September 1, 2006**. This technical is required because of the potential water quality impacts from the discharge of tritium and the need for an evaluation of Southern California Edison's (SCE) efforts to address this potential water problem. The technical shall include, but not limited to, the following:

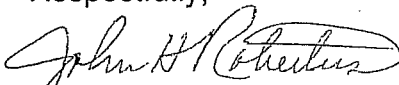
1. A description of how the pollutant, tritium, was detected at the plant, the known extent of the discharge to groundwater, and SCE's efforts to determine the nature and extent of the pollutant in groundwater.

2. The monitoring data obtained thus far on any quantities of tritium in the dewatering discharge to the ocean outfall.
3. A description of the added monitoring program implemented to monitor the possible presence of tritium in the dewatering discharge.
4. The actions SCE has taken and plans to take to detect the presence of tritium in the dewatering discharge to the ocean and to prevent any discharge of tritium in the dewatering discharge to the ocean.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Charles Cheng at (858) 627-3930 or CCheng@waterboards.ca.gov.

The heading portion of this letter includes a Regional Board code number noted after "In reply refer to." In order to assist us in the processing of your correspondence please include this code number in the heading or subject line portion of all correspondence and reports to the Regional Board pertaining to this matter.

Respectfully,


JOHN H. ROBERTUS
Executive Officer

JHR:dtb:tl

cc: Blair Spitzberg
Chief, FCDB
U.S. NRC Region IV
Texas Health Resources Tower
611 Ryan Plaza, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-4005

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Douglas Eberhardt

John Richards
Staff Counsel
Office of Chief Counsel (OCC)
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 "I" Street, 22nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Robert Heckler

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August 23, 2006

cc: State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
P.O. Box 944213
Sacramento, CA 94244-2130
Attn: Phil Isorena

California Environmental Protection Agency
