

April 24, 2009

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: **San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Units 2 and 3
Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362
Notification of Intent to Extend Removal of the Containment
Hydrogen Recombiners**

- References:
- 1) Letter from L. Raghavan (U. S. NRC) to H. B. Ray (SCE) dated September 3, 1999, Subject: Issuance of Exemption from Certain Requirements of 10 CFR 50.44 – San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), Units 2 and 3 (TAC Nos. MA3543, MA3544, MA3545 and MA3546)
 - 2) Letter from D. E. Nunn (SCE) to Document Control Desk (NRC) dated July 19, 1999; Subject: Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362, Request for Exemption on Hydrogen Control, Proposed Technical Specification Change 496, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Units 2 and 3
 - 3) Letter from A. E. Scherer (SCE) to Document Control Desk (NRC) dated February 5, 2007; Subject: San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Units 2 and 3, Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362, Notification of Intent to Remove a Containment Hydrogen Recombiner

Dear Sir or Madam:

By Reference 1, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) exempted SONGS Units 2 and 3 from certain requirements of the then-applicable regulation in 10 CFR 50.44. Among the exemptions granted was the elimination of containment hydrogen recombiners from the SONGS Units 2 and 3 design basis.

By Reference 2, Southern California Edison (SCE) clarified our intentions regarding the hydrogen recombiners and other hydrogen control systems, upon NRC approval of our exemption request, as follows: "...it is currently Southern California Edison's intention to continue to maintain these systems to the extent that it remains prudent and

practical.” “If at some future time equipment becomes inoperable and Southern California Edison decides to permanently cease repair efforts, Southern California Edison will then inform the NRC of that decision.” NRC staff documented this commitment in the safety evaluation included in the referenced letter.

By Reference 3, SCE provided notification of our intention to remove one of the two hydrogen recombiners (E146) per containment for the duration of the cycle 15 operating cycle of each unit. SCE has completed planning for the Unit 2 Cycle 16 outage and it is now our intention to leave the Units 2 and 3 E146 hydrogen recombiners removed from containment through the end of operating cycle 16. The opposite train hydrogen recombiner (E145) for each unit remains functional at this time and SONGS intends to continue to maintain the second hydrogen recombiner in each unit consistent with our original commitment.

If the staff should have any questions or require any additional information, please contact Ms. Linda Conklin at 949-368-9443.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. E. Hall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

cc: E. E. Collins, NRC Region IV, Regional Administrator
R. Hall, NRC Project Manager, San Onofre Units 2 and 3
G. G. Warnick, NRC Senior Resident Inspector, San Onofre Units 2 and 3