



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
612 EAST LAMAR BLVD, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-4125

May 19, 2011

EA-11-083

Mr. Peter Dietrich
Senior Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Southern California Edison Company
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
P.O. Box 128
San Clemente, CA 92674-0128

SUBJECT: SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - NRC INSPECTION
REPORT 05000361/2011012; 05000362/2011012

Dear Mr. Dietrich:

This letter refers to the in-office inspection conducted from March 2, 2011, to April 18, 2011, for San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether any violations of regulatory requirements occurred when an inactive and medically disqualified Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) performed licensed duties (core alterations) as Refueling SRO Supervisor on October 21, 2010, and October 27, 2010. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection.

This inspection examined activities conducted under your license as they relate to safety and compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions in your license. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a review of selected procedures, an Apparent Cause Evaluation, and other records and documents generated by your staff as a result of the refuel watch standing issue and in response to additional questions from the inspector.

Based on the results of this inspection, one apparent violation was identified and is being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy. The current Enforcement Policy is included on the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/enforcement/enforce-pol.html>. The apparent violation involved a failure to comply with 10 CFR 55.53(f), which states, in part, that the facility licensee is required to certify that the qualifications and status of a Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) are current and valid prior to the operator resuming activities authorized by their license. Specifically, a medically disqualified and inactive SRO performed licensed activities (core alterations) as Refueling SRO Supervisor on October 21, 2010, and again on October 27, 2010.

The circumstances surrounding this apparent violation, the significance of the issues, and the need for lasting and effective corrective action were discussed with members of your staff at the

telephonic inspection exit meeting on April 18, 2010. The NRC believes that it has sufficient information to make an informed enforcement decision regarding these circumstances. Therefore, it may not be necessary to conduct a pre-decisional enforcement conference in order to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision.

In addition, based on our understanding of your corrective actions, a civil penalty may not be warranted in accordance with Section 2.3.4 of the Enforcement Policy. The final decision will be based on your confirming on the license docket that the corrective actions previously described to the staff have been or are being taken.

Before the NRC makes its enforcement decision, we are providing you an opportunity to either (1) respond to the apparent violation addressed in this inspection report within 30 days of the date of this letter, or (2) request a Predecisional Enforcement Conference (PEC). If a PEC is held, it will be open for public observation and the NRC will issue a press release to announce the time and date of the conference. If you decide to participate in a PEC, please contact Mark Haire at (817) 860-8159 within 10 days of the date of this letter. A PEC should be held within 30 days of the date of this letter.

If you choose to provide a written response, it should be clearly marked as a "Response to Apparent Violation in Inspection Report No. 05000361/2011012 and 50000362/2011012; EA-11-083" and should include the following: (1) the reason for the apparent violation, or, if contested, the basis for disputing the apparent violation; (2) the corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved; (3) the corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations; and (4) the date when full compliance will be achieved. Your response may reference or include previously docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. If an adequate response is not received within the time specified or an extension of time has not been granted by the NRC, the NRC will proceed with its enforcement decision or schedule a pre-decisional enforcement conference.

If you choose to request a PEC, the conference will afford you the opportunity to provide your perspective on the apparent violation and any other information that you believe the NRC should take into consideration before making an enforcement decision. The topics discussed during the conference may include the following: information to determine whether a violation occurred, information to determine the significance of a violation, information related to the identification of a violation, and information related to any corrective actions taken or planned to be taken. In presenting your corrective actions, you should be aware that the promptness and comprehensiveness of your actions will be considered in assessing any civil penalty for the apparent violation.

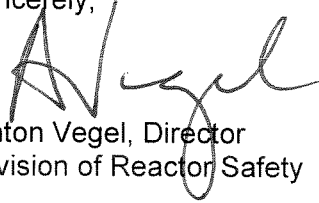
In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review. You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response, if you choose to provide one, will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the

NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be made available to the Public without redaction.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mark Haire of my staff at (817) 860-8159.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anton Vogel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

Anton Vogel, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Dockets: 50-361; 50-362
Licenses: NPF-10; NPF-15

Enclosure: Inspection Report 05000361/2011012; 05000362/2011012

cc w/Enclosure: Distribution via ListServe

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

Dockets: 50-361; 50-362

Licenses: NPF-10; NPF-15

Report: 05000361/2011012; 05000362/2011012

Licensee: Southern California Edison Company

Facility: San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3

Location: 5000 S Pacific Coast Hwy
San Clemente, CA 92674-0128

Dates: March 2 through April 18, 2011

Inspector: B. Larson, Senior Operations Engineer

Approved by: Mark S Haire, Chief
Operations Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

IR05000361/2011012; 05000362/2011012; March 2-April 18, 2011; San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3; Refueling and Other Outage Activities.

One NRC regional inspector evaluated whether any violations of regulatory requirements occurred when an inactive and medically disqualified Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) performed licensed duties (core alterations) as Refueling SRO Supervisor on October 21, 2010, and October 27, 2010. One Apparent Violation was identified.

A. NRC-Identified and Self-Revealing Findings

Cornerstone: Initiating Events

- TBD. The inspector identified one Apparent Violation (AV) of 10 CFR 55.53(f) which states, in part, that the facility licensee is required to certify that the qualifications and status of a Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) are current and valid prior to the operator resuming activities authorized by their license. Specifically, on October 21, 2010, and October 27, 2010, an SRO performed licensed activities (core alterations) as Refueling SRO Supervisor while his license was INACTIVE. Additionally, the SRO was on a temporary medical hold from licensed activities on the dates identified. On October 27, 2010, the SRO's license restrictions were questioned by on-shift operations personnel and the SRO was relieved from his watch station. The licensee has entered this AV into their corrective action program as NN 201174957. Corrective actions are still being evaluated.

Failure of the facility licensee to maintain electronic programs used to verify licensed operator qualifications and to schedule licensed operator watch stations up-to-date with licensed operator worker qualifications and license restrictions could potentially impede the regulatory process by not providing complete and accurate information to NRC inspectors. NRC Enforcement Policy, Section 6.4, Licensed Reactor Operators, Item c.1.(c) states, in part, that if a licensed operator, or a senior operator actively performing the functions covered by that position, is determined to be in noncompliance with a condition stated on the individual's license, then an apparent Severity Level III violation exists. (Section 1R20.1)

B. Licensee-Identified Violations

None.

REPORT DETAILS

1. REACTOR SAFETY

1R20 Refueling and Other Outage Activities

.1 Refueling Activities

a. Scope

One regional inspector conducted an in-office review of selected procedures, an Apparent Cause Evaluation and other records and documents generated by the licensee staff as a result of an INACTIVE and medically disqualified Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) performing an activity requiring a license (core alterations). Based on the reviews, the inspector asked additional questions that were answered by members of the licensee staff.

b. Findings

Introduction. The inspector identified one apparent violation of 10 CFR 55.53(f) for failing to certify that a Senior Reactor Operator's (SRO) qualifications and status were current and valid before the operator resumed functions authorized by his license.

Description. On April 20, 2010, the SRO was removed from licensed duties (temporary medical disqualification). On October 1, 2010, the SRO's license became INACTIVE due to not actively performing the functions of a senior operator for a minimum of seven 8-hour or five 12-hour shifts per calendar quarter as identified in 10 CFR 55.53(e). On October 21, 2010, and October 27, 2010, the licensee failed to ensure that the Refueling SRO Supervisor was medically qualified and maintained an ACTIVE SRO license (or an SRO license limited to fuel handling only) before allowing him to resume functions authorized by his license. Specifically, a SRO performed licensed activities (core alternations) as Refueling SRO Supervisor while his license was INACTIVE and not medically qualified (temporary medical hold from licensed activities) on the dates identified. The systems used by the facility to track qualification and proficiency did not identify either the medical hold or the INACTIVE license status of the operator. On October 27, 2010, the SRO's license restrictions were questioned by on-shift operations personnel and the SRO was relieved from his watch station.

Analysis. The facility licensee site standard for verifying worker qualifications was the program electronic Qualifications Information System (eQIS). This program did not include licensed operator qualifications. Also, the program used by the scheduling group when generating watch schedules was Site Worker Scheduling (SWS). This program did not contain criteria required to validate qualifications for the Refuel SRO Supervisor position. Failure to maintain these two programs up-to-date with licensed operator worker qualifications and license restrictions could potentially impede the regulatory process by not providing complete and accurate information to NRC inspectors.

Because the performance deficiency was an apparent violation that impacted the regulatory process, the NRC Enforcement Policy was reviewed. Enforcement Policy, Section 6.4, Licensed Reactor Operators, Item c.1.(c) states that a licensed senior operator actively performing the functions covered by that position while in noncompliance with a condition stated on the individual's license is an example of a Severity Level III violation.

Enforcement. 10 CFR 55.53(e) states, in part, that if the [senior operator] licensee has not been actively performing the functions of a senior operator, the [senior operator] licensee may not resume activities authorized by a license issued under this part except as permitted by paragraph (f) of this section.

10 CFR 55.53(f) states, in part, that before resumption of functions authorized by a license issued under this part, an authorized representative of the facility licensee shall certify the following: (1) that the qualifications and status of the licensee [senior operator] are current and valid; and (2) that the licensee [senior operator] has completed a minimum of 40 hours of shift functions under the direction of an operator or senior operator as appropriate and in the position to which the individual will be assigned.

Contrary to the above, on October 21, 2010, and October 27, 2010, the facility licensee did not certify that the qualifications and status of the [senior operator] licensee were current and valid and that the [senior operator] licensee had completed the required minimum shift functions as required by 10 CFR 55.53(f). Specifically, the facility licensee did not certify that qualifications of the [senior reactor] licensee were current and valid before allowing the senior operator to perform licensed activities (core alternations) as Refueling SRO Supervisor. In fact, the license of the senior operator in question was INACTIVE. Additionally, the senior operator was not medically qualified to perform licensed duties on the dates identified due to a temporary medically disqualifying condition. On October 27, 2010, the senior operator's license restrictions were questioned by on-shift operations personnel and the senior operator was relieved from his watch station.

This is an apparent Severity Level III violation.

40A6 Meetings, Including Exit

The regional inspector presented the inspection results to Messrs. D. Bauder, Vice President and Station Manager, R. St. Onge, Director, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs, and other members of the licensee's staff on April 18, 2011. The circumstances surrounding this apparent violation, the significance of the issues, and the need for lasting and effective corrective action were discussed.

The licensee representatives acknowledged the inspection results presented. The inspectors asked the licensee whether any materials examined during the inspection should be considered proprietary. No proprietary information was identified.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

KEY POINTS OF CONTACT

Licensee Personnel

D. Axline, Nuclear Regulatory Affairs

NRC Personnel

G. Warnick, Senior Resident Inspector

DOCUMENTS REFERENCED

Apparent Cause Evaluation 201174957, Refueling Activities Supervised by SRO Without Active License

SO123-0-A2, Operations Division Personnel Responsibilities, Rev 24.