

Docket

August 13, 1981

Docket No. 50-206
LS05-81-08-029

Mr. Ralph Nader
Center for Progressive Law
Post Office Box 19367
Washington, D. C. 20036



Dear Mr. Nader:

By letter dated August 6, 1981, I acknowledged receipt of your letter dated July 10, 1981, and informed you that the staff would respond to the concerns raised in your letter prior to the San Onofre Unit 1 Nuclear Generating Station resuming power operation. The major issues raised in your letter dealt with the seismic design of the facility and the emergency plans.

The staff has completed a preliminary review of the licensee's seismic reevaluation program for the San Onofre Unit 1 facility along with Southern California Edison's justification for the conclusion that continued operation is justified until the seismic reevaluation program and any necessary upgrading is complete. The staff has also reviewed new seismic analysis by the licensee and NRC consultants and details of design modifications for seismic upgrading scheduled to be implemented by June 1982. We have found that, for the seismic concerns you raised, operation of San Onofre Unit 1, pending documentation of our final decision on your request, does not pose an undue risk to public health and safety.

The licensee has been involved in the seismic reevaluation and upgrading of Unit 1 since the early 1970's. The staff has been following the licensee's program since that time. With the initiation of the Systematic Evaluation Program in 1978, staff efforts in this area were substantially increased. This has included site visits, meetings and substantial correspondence between the licensee and the staff. These efforts have led us to the conclusion listed above relative to continued operation of San Onofre Unit 1. We have prepared a draft evaluation of the seismic capability of the San Onofre Unit 1 facility. The draft report covers long and near term seismic hazard considerations, the seismic resistance of the structures, systems, and components, the activities proposed to improve seismic resistance, and the justification for continued plant operation until June 1982 when additional seismic upgrading will be done. This evaluation will be included in our final response to your request.

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Mr. Ralph Nader

- 2 -

August 13, 1981

The staff has conferred with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and NRC emergency planning experts concerning the San Onofre Unit 1 emergency plan and exercise held in May 1981. Based on the NRC staff's previous evaluation of the current emergency plan, the licensee's commitments to upgrade the emergency preparedness, and their response to the FEMA concerns, we find that operation of San Onofre Unit 1, pending a final decision on your request, does not pose an undue risk to public health and safety.

It is our understanding that San Onofre Unit 1 will commence power operation within a few days. Our final response to your request and the bases for our conclusions will be issued in approximately one month.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc:
See next page

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Mr. Ralph Nader

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It is our understanding that San Onofre Unit 1 will commence power operation the week of August 10, 1981. Our final response to your request and the bases for our conclusions will be issued in approximately one month.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc:
See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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Center for Progressive Law
Post Office Box 19367
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It is our understanding that San Onofre Unit 1 will commence power operation within a few days. Our final response to your request and the bases for our conclusions will be issued in approximately one month.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Harold R. Denton".

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc:
See next page

Mr. Ralph Nader

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August 13, 1981

cc:

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Mission Viejo, California 92676

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City of San Clemente
San Clemente, California 92672

Chairman
Board of Supervisors
County of San Diego
San Diego, California 92101

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ATTN: Chief, Environmental
Radiation Control Unit
Radiological Health Section
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Sacramento, California 95814

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
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