



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

Rocket

MAR 2 1979

Docket Nos. 50-361
and 50-362

Mr. James H. Drake
Vice President
Southern California Edison Company
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
P. O. Box 800
Rosemead, California 91770

Mr. B. W. Gilman
Senior Vice President - Operations
San Diego Gas and Electric Company
101 Ash Street
P. O. Box 1831
San Diego, California 92112

Gentlemen:

This letter is being sent to all licensees authorized to operate or construct a pressurized water power reactor and to all applicants for a license to operate or construct a pressurized water power reactor.

Operating problems have occurred in Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) steam generators. The enclosed report, "Summary of Operating Experience with Recirculating Steam Generators," NUREG 0523, focuses on the problems associated with steam generators of the recirculation type, i.e., those manufactured by Combustion Engineering and Westinghouse. The report discusses the NRC staff's evaluation of these problems and the programs for resolving these problems.

The NRC has recently identified steam generator degradation as an Unresolved Safety Issue deserving the highest priority for resolution. However, for the reasons identified in the report, the NRC staff has concluded that continued operation of existing plants and licensing of new plants with recirculation type steam generators, pending completion of our review, does not constitute an undue risk to the health and safety of the public and therefore may continue.

It should be noted that a number of research efforts are currently under way which will improve our knowledge of steam generator degradation mechanisms. The information presented in the report represents our current understanding of each issue. Comments on this report and information

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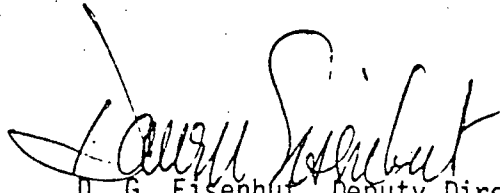
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related to steam generator degradation mechanisms are encouraged and should be forwarded to Dr. Boen-Dar Liaw, Engineering Branch, Division of Operating Reactors, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555.



D. G. Eisenhut, Deputy Director
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:

Summary of Operating Experience
with Recirculating Steam
Generators, January 1979,
NUREG 0523

Mr. James H. Drake
Vice President
Southern California Edison Company
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
P. O. Box 800
Rosemead, California 91770

Mr. B. W. Gilman
Senior Vice President - Operations
San Diego Gas and Electric Company
101 Ash Street
P. O. Box 1831
San Diego, California 92112

cc: Charles R. Kocher, Esq.
James A. Beoletto, Esq.
Southern California Edison Company
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
P. O. Box 800
Rosemead, California 91770

Chickering and Gregory
ATTN: David R. Pigott, Esq.
Counsel for San Diego Gas
& Electric Company and
Southern California
Edison Company
Three Embarcadero Center, 23rd Floor
San Francisco, California 94112

Mr. Kenneth E. Carr
City Manager
City of San Clemente
100 Avenida Presidio
San Clemente, California 92672

Alan R. Watts, Esq.
Rourke & Woodruff
1055 North Main Street
Suite 1020
Santa Ana, California 92701

Lawrence Q. Garcia, Esq.
California Public Utilities Commission
5066 State Building
San Francisco, California 94102

Mr. James H. Drake
Mr. B. W. Gilman

cc: Mr. R. W. DeVane, Jr.
Combustion Engineering, Inc.
1000 Prospect Hill Road
Windsor, Connecticut 06095

Mr. P. Dragolovich
Bechtel Power Corporation
P. O. Box 60860, Terminal Annex
Los Angeles, California 90060

Mr. Mark Medford
Southern California Edison Company
2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
P. O. Box 800
Rosemead, California 91770

Henry Peters
San Diego Gas & Electric Company
Post Office Box 1831
San Diego, California 92112

Ms. Lyn Harris Hicks
Advocate for GUARD
3908 Calle Ariana
San Clemente, California 92672

Richard J. Wharton, Esq.
4655 Cass Street, Suite 304
San Diego, California 92109

Phyllis M. Gallagher, Esq.
Suite 220
615 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, California 92701

Mr. Robert J. Pate
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 4167
San Clemente, California 92672