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 AUTH.NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 CURRAN,J.M. Southern California Edison Co.
 RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 ENGELKEN,R.H. Region 5, San Francisco, Office of the Director

SUBJECT: RO:on 800922,while decontaminating steam generator channel heads,decontamination sys was shut down due to excess makeup in sys.Examination of seal revealed 10-inch tear in rubber ballon resulting in seal failure.Cause under review.

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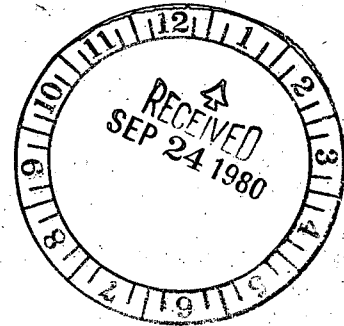
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Southern California Edison Company

SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
P.O. BOX 126
SAN CLEMENTE, CALIFORNIA 92672

September 22, 1980



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region V
1990 North California Boulevard
Suite 202, Walnut Creek Plaza
Walnut Creek, California 94596

Attention: Mr. R. H. Engelken, Director

DOCKET No. 50-206
SAN ONOFRE - UNIT 1

Dear Sir:

This letter describes a reportable occurrence involving an inadvertent dilution of the reactor coolant system. Submittal is in accordance with the reporting requirements stipulated in Section 6.9.2 of Appendix A to the Provisional Operating License DPR-13.

On September 22, 1980 work was underway to decontaminate the steam generator channel heads in order to minimize man-rem during the steam generator sleeving repair program. The decontamination process uses a high pressure grit spray to remove the oxide layer from the steam generator channel head.

In order to prevent the water-grit spray from entering the reactor coolant system, inflatable plugs were installed. In order to monitor for leakage past the plugs the following items are continuously monitored:

1. Inflatable seal pressure.
2. Decontamination system water inventory
3. Reactor vessel level
4. Volume control tank level
5. Boron concentration (samples are taken once hour during decontamination operation)

At 2145 the decontamination system was shut down due to excess makeup in the decontamination system. A boron analysis at 2155 indicated a dilution of 51 ppm had occurred. The loop seal was examined and found to have failed. A seal pressure change was not observed because the gauge quick disconnect was not properly connected, isolating both the gauge and seal air supply. Examination of the seal found a 10" tear in the rubber ballon resulting in seal failure. The exact cause of the sealing system failure is still under investigation.

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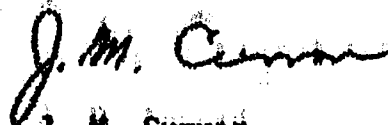
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The dilution in boron concentration of 50 ppm represents a reactivity addition in excess of the 50¢ prompt reporting requirements of Section 6.9.2.a of the Technical Specifications. The inadvertent dilution occurred during a time when containment integrity was not established as required by Section 3.6.B.3 of the Technical Specifications. At no time did boron concentration decrease below 2400ppm which represents a K_{eff} 0.90. Decontamination of the steam generators has been discontinued until repairs have been completed, and corrective action to prevent a reoccurrence completed.

A complete report on this matter together with a Licensee Event Report will be forwarded within 14 days.

Sincerely,



J. M. Curran
Plant Manager

JTR/ap