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 MIRAGLIA, F. Licensing Branch 3

SUBJECT: Advises that response to 820327 ltr re existing capability of facilities for rapid depressurization & decay heat removal w/o power operated relief valves will be delayed. C-E owners group will submit response as soon as possible.

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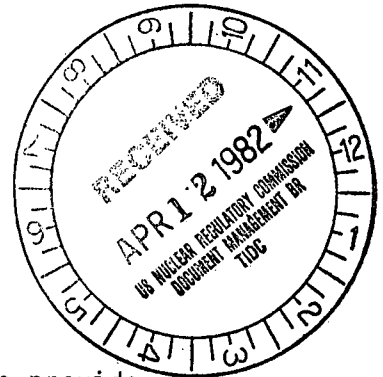
April 9, 1982

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Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. Frank Miraglia, Branch Chief
Licensing Branch No. 3
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

Subject: Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
Units 2 and 3



The NRC's letter of March 27, 1982, requested SCE to provide additional information relative to the existing capability of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Units 2&3 for rapid depressurization and decay heat removal without Power Operated Relief Valves (PORVs). The letter also indicated that SCE should provide a schedule for responding to the NRC's questions within seven days of the receipt of the NRC request, and that if the responses to all the questions could not be provided at least one month prior to the expected date for operation of San Onofre Unit 2 at power levels above 5%, SCE should provide justification for full power operation of San Onofre Unit 2 in the interim.

SCE has performed a preliminary review of the questions forwarded by the NRC and has determined that substantial effort will be required not only to prepare the response but to also clearly define a realistic scope, content, and schedule for responding to all the questions. Additionally, it should be noted that the current power ascension schedule for San Onofre Unit 2 indicates operation above 5% power will be achieved in early to mid-June, 1982. Given the complexity of the NRC questions, the fact that information beyond the design basis for San Onofre Units 2 and 3 is being requested, and the close proximity of the scheduled date for operation of San Onofre Unit 2 above the 5% power level, it would be unrealistic to expect responses to the questions one month prior to the scheduled date for operation above 5% power.

During a recent meeting of the Combustion Engineering Owners Group (CEOG) on April 7, 1982, it was agreed that the CEOG would sponsor preparation of generic responses for affected CE Utilities. SCE will participate in the CEOG effort for preparation of generic responses. Since the March 27, 1982, NRC request was received by SCE on April 2, 1982 and the CEOG sponsorship was recently obtained on April 7, 1982, neither SCE nor the CEOG has had an opportunity to develop a firm definition of the scope or schedule for preparation of responses. However, SCE will advise the NRC as soon as the scope of the program and schedule for preparation of responses have been defined and established.

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Mr. Frank Miraglia

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April 9, 1982

In the interim, consistent with the NRC's request, a justification to demonstrate that San Onofre Unit 2 can safely operate at full power is being prepared. This justification for San Onofre Unit 2 will be submitted to the NRC on May 1, 1982.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K P Baskin".

K. P. Baskin
Manager of Nuclear Engineering,
Safety, and Licensing