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 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 DENTON, H. R. Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Director

SUBJECT: Informs that plant ready to enter fuel loading & low power testing phase of startup program by 821115. Issuance of OL prior to date appropriate & necessary.

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 TITLE: Licensing Submittal: PSAR/FSAR Amdts & Related Correspondence

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ROBERT DIETCH

VICE PRESIDENT

September 27, 1982

TELEPHONE

213-572-4144

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Denton:

Subject: Docket No. 50-362
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
Unit 3

Based upon my continuing reviews of the status of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 3 (SONGS 3), I have determined that the unit will be ready to enter the fuel loading and low power testing phase of the startup program by about November 15, 1982, and that issuance of an operating license prior to that time is not only appropriate, but necessary to support the plant startup schedule.

SCE currently has 19 senior reactor operators and 17 reactor operators licensed on SONGS 2. These personnel are to be tested by oral examination in early November, 1982 on the differences between SONGS 2 and 3. I anticipate that the results of these examinations will be such that plant staffing will be more than adequate to operate Units 2 and 3.

I have reviewed the alternatives of (1) requesting that the initial license for SONGS 3 be a full power license, or (2) requesting that a low power license be issued first and that a full power license be issued at a later date. I can foresee no advantage in the two step process. The licensing record on SONGS 2 and 3 for purposes of license issuance is complete. Therefore, this letter addresses issuance of a full power license for SONGS 3.

While events between now and mid-November may result in slight change (either earlier or later) in the November 15, 1982 schedule, I consider that this is the appropriate date on which to base NRC and SCE planning.

If there are any questions, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

Robert Dietch

Boo!