



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

October 28, 1992

Docket No. 50-206

Mr. Harold B. Ray
Senior Vice President
Southern California Edison Company
Irvine Operations Center
23 Parker Street
Irvine, California 92718

Dear Mr. Ray:

SUBJECT: SAN ONOFRE UNIT 1 REFUELING WATER STORAGE TANK EVALUATION
(TAC NO. M83164)

A Safety Evaluation is enclosed that responds to your request for relief from San Onofre Unit 1 Reactor Water Storage Tank repair requirements. In letters dated April 26, 1992 and June 26, 1992 you analyzed the significance of leakage from the Refueling Water Storage Tank that had been discovered on March 19, 1992. American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Article IWA-5250 of Section XI requires repair of tank defects. You requested to continue power operations at Unit 1 through the remainder of the current fuel cycle without repairing the tank. Permanent shutdown of the Unit 1 reactor is scheduled to occur when the reactor fuel is depleted at the end of 1992.

Our evaluation of your relief request included a review of the submittals referenced above, several telephone conferences, an onsite inspection of the tank, and several meetings with your staff. We concurred with your conclusion that the leakage was caused by localized corrosion of exterior tank surfaces and that no significant wastage of additional material is likely to occur in the near term from that corrosion mechanism. However, the margin for the tank to withstand buckling during a seismic event was found to be less than the safety factor required by the applicable code. Strengthening the tank to code requirements would be required if power operations were to continue past December 1992.

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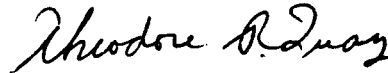
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Mr. Harold B. Ray

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The existing buckling margin is sufficient to justify short term power operations and the normal post-shutdown activities leading to reactor defueling. If continued, long-term use of the tank for safety functions is proposed after reactor defueling, measures to improve resistance to buckling will be required. In the interim, your request for relief from the ASME Code through December 1992 is approved.

Sincerely



Theodore R. Quay, Director
Project Directorate V
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. Harold B. Ray
Southern California Edison Company

San Onofre Nuclear Generating
Station, Unit No. 1

cc:

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