



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION V

1450 MARIA LANE  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596-5368

DEC 24 1992

Docket Nos. 50-206, 50-361, 50-362

Southern California Edison Company  
Irvine Operations Center  
23 Parker Street  
Irvine, California 92718

Attention: Mr. Harold B. Ray  
Senior Vice President, Nuclear

SUBJECT: SYSTEMATIC ASSESSMENT OF LICENSEE PERFORMANCE (SALP) FOR  
SAN ONOFRE UNITS 1, 2 AND 3 (AUGUST 1, 1991 THROUGH  
NOVEMBER 30, 1992)

The NRC Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) Board has completed its periodic evaluation of the performance of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Units 1, 2 and 3 for the period August 1, 1991 through November 30, 1992.

The performance of San Onofre activities were evaluated in the functional areas of Plant Operations, Radiological Controls, Maintenance/Surveillance, Emergency Preparedness, Security, Engineering/Technical Support, and Safety Assessment/Quality Verification. The criteria used in conducting this assessment and the SALP Board's evaluation of your performance in these functional areas are contained in NRC Manual Chapter 0516, "Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance," dated September 28, 1990. The SALP Board's assessment is provided in the enclosed Initial SALP Report.

Overall, the SALP Board found the performance of licensed activities at the SONGS site to be good, in some areas superior, and directed toward safe facility operation. Superior performance was noted to have continued from the previous SALP period in the areas of Radiological Controls, Emergency Preparedness, and Security. The performance of Plant Operations continued to improve from the previous assessment period such that a Category 1 rating performance was attained. The performance of Maintenance/Surveillance remained a Category 2 during this assessment period. The Board noted some improvement in this area, particularly during the last half of the period, but did not consider the improvement sustained for sufficient time or at a sufficient rate to warrant designating a trend for this assessment period. Although the Board's rating of the licensee's performance in the Safety Assessment/Quality Verification area remained the same as the last SALP period (Category 2, improving), the Board noted the superior performance of the Nuclear Oversight Division.

Several concerns were identified by the NRC during this assessment period. Weaknesses were observed in Engineering/Technical Support and Safety Assessment/Quality Verification, wherein licensee engineers and management in some cases displayed a tendency toward apparently expedient rather than

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thorough resolution of emerging issues. This contributed to the Board's determination that the "improving trend" for Engineering/Technical Support in the last SALP report should be dropped, resulting in a Category 2 rating this assessment period. The Board recommended that more probing and independent reviews of engineering work be encouraged. In addition, the Board encourages improvement in the interface between engineering and other organizations, and an assessment of the responsibilities of system engineers. Further, some weaknesses were identified in the Maintenance/Surveillance area related to the adequacy of surveillance testing to identify degrading plant equipment, and documentation of the use and evaluation of measuring and test equipment.

Based upon discussions with your staff, a management meeting to discuss the results of the SALP Board's assessment has been scheduled for January 14, 1993 at the SONGS site. Arrangements will be discussed with your staff in the near future.

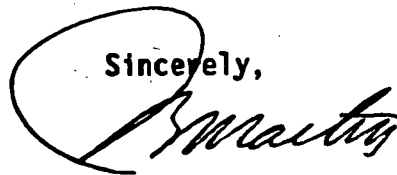
An overview of the SALP Board's assessment is provided in Section II of the enclosed report. Perceived strengths and weaknesses and the SALP Board's recommendations are discussed in Section III, Performance Analysis. Section IV of the enclosed report provides supporting data and a summary of activities for the assessment period.

Since no functional area was assessed a Category 3, a written response to the enclosed Initial SALP Report is not required. However, you may submit comments to the enclosed SALP Report, if desired, within 30 days of the January 14, 1993 meeting.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's Rules of Practice, Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed Initial SALP Report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning the enclosed report, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



J.B. Martin  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:  
Initial SALP Report Nos. 50-206/92-28,  
50-361/92-28,  
and 50-362/92-28

cc w/enclosure:

H. E. Morgan, Vice President and Site Manager (San Clemente)  
R. W. Krieger, Station Manager (San Clemente)  
State of California  
INPO