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August 6, 1982

Dr. Dennis L. Berry
 Project Manager for USI L-45
 Division 9414
 Nuclear Facility Analysis
 Sandia National Laboratory
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185

Dear Dr. Berry:

Subject: Depressurization and Decay Heat Removal System for
 CE Plants Without PORVs

This letter is a follow-up to our telephone conversation of July 28, 1982,
 on the subject issue.

As I indicated, Mr. Harold Denton, Director of NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), requested that we examine what can be done as part of the A-45 program (FIN No. A-1309) to expedite our planned evaluation of the need for a rapid depressurization and decay heat removal system (such as, "feed and bleed") for CE plants without PORVs. This would mean re-scheduling the work on feed and bleed delineated under Task 4, "Conceptual Design Studies," of our Statement of Work transmitted in a letter, dated May 3, 1982, from S. H. Manauer to R. G. Romatowski. After the Combustion Engineering Owner's Group study of this subject issue is provided by June 30, 1983, NRR will be required to make a recommendation to the Commission in this matter. In order for NRR to make a more informed decision, we should provide an interim evaluation of this issue in the same time frame as the CE study.

It is my feeling that your interim study in this matter should focus on providing a value-impact, or cost-benefit evaluation, of adding a rapid depressurization and decay heat removal system to specific CE plant without PORVs, such as San Onofre 2. Both the engineering and operational aspects should be considered including proposing specific design criteria, performance requirements and standards that the system should meet. You should draw on your previous work for RES on "Assessment of Alternate LWR Shutdown Heat Removal Concepts" (FIN No. A-1226). Any significant thermal-hydraulic phenomenological uncertainties that would make such a system a less viable option should be identified, including an estimate of the time and resources to resolve the concern.

As per your request, I am enclosing background material on this subject, including the transcript of the July 28, 1982 Commission Meeting on a Full Power Operating License for San Onofre 2, which contains an extensive discussion of this issue.

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Dr. Dennis L. Berry

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August 6, 1982

Within two weeks of receipt of this letter, please provide me with your planned approach for evaluating this issue.

Sincerely,

/s/

A. R. Marchese, Task Manager
Generic Issues Branch
Division of Safety Technology

Enclosures:
As stated

cc: w/o enclosures
H. Denton
E. Case
S. Hanauer
R. Mattson
D. Eisenhut
G. Varnado, Sandia

cc-

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