Southern California Edison Company

SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region V
1450 Maria Lane, Suite 210
Walnut Creek, California 94596-5368

Attention: Mr. R. H. Engelken, Regional Administrator

Dear Sir:

Subject: Docket No. 50-206
Informational Report
Licensee Event Report No. 82-021
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1

This report is submitted to provide information concerning partially separated bladder seams in two of the accumulator tanks of the hydraulic actuators for the safety injection valves. A separation of bladder seams does not represent a violation of the Technical Specifications, nor has it been determined that it would prevent the valves from operating. This matter is being reported because it involves components of engineered safety features.

With the plant in Mode 5 on May 28, 1982, accumulator tanks of the safety injection hydraulic valve actuators were depressurized for scheduled instrument calibration. These tanks contain flexible bladders that form the boundary between pressurized nitrogen and hydraulic fluid. During repressurization of the accumulator tanks, nitrogen leakage from the bladder of Hydraulic Valve Actuator 854-B was observed. As a result, three accumulator tanks were removed and sent offsite for disassembly and inspection.

The first results of the inspection and analysis of the accumulator tanks were received on July 23, 1982. Partially separated seams were discovered in two bladders and the seam of another bladder was in the early stages of separation. On July 27, 1982, the removal of the remaining accumulator tanks was initiated. These tanks were subsequently shipped offsite for inspection, maintenance and repair as required.

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Based on the evaluation of this situation to date, the Southern California Edison Company (SCE) has concluded that a separated accumulator tank bladder seam, by itself, would not result in the failure of the valve actuator since the necessary accumulator tank pressure would still be retained. Proper valve performance has been proven by the fact that when the plant was being taken from Mode 1 to Mode 5 on February 26, 1982, all safety injection hydraulic valves were tested and found to operate satisfactorily. Further, accumulator tank pressure, a key parameter in valve operation, was maintained at the required level until the accumulator tanks were depressurized for scheduled instrument calibration.

The extent of the repair or replacement of the accumulator tank bladders will be based on the results of the inspection currently in progress. Once the results of this inspection are known, a follow-up letter, together with a revision of Licensee Event Report 82-021, will be submitted.

The analysis of the effect the accumulator tank bladder seam separation might have on valve operation is continuing. Should any future evaluation result in a finding different from that presented herein, a report detailing such a determination will be prepared.

There was no adverse effect on the health and safety of the general public. If you have any questions or if we can provide additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

HBRay / RWCrouch

Enclosure: LER 82-021

cc: L. F. Miller (USNRC Resident Inspector San Onofre Unit 1)

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Office of Inspection and Enforcement

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Management Information and Program Control

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations