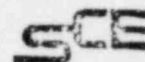


Southern California Edison Company



P. O. BOX 800

7244 WALNUT GROVE AVENUE

ROSEMEAD, CALIFORNIA 91770

J. T. HEAD, JR.
VICE PRESIDENT

TELEPHONE
213-572-1472

October 13, 1978

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region V
Suite 202, Walnut Creek Plaza
1990 North California Boulevard
Walnut Creek, California 94596

Attention: Mr. R. H. Engelken, Director

Docket No. 50-206
San Onofre Unit 1

Dear Sir:

- References:
- (1) Frey, H. W., 1971, California's Living Resources and Their Utilization, California Department of Fish and Game, pp. 106-107.
 - (2) Lockheed Center for Marine Research (LCMR) 1978, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station - Unit 1 - Environmental Technical Specifications - Annual Operating Report Volume II, Biological Data, and Volume III, Biological Data Analysis - 1977. Prepared for Southern California Edison Company, Rosemead, California.
 - (3) Skogsberg, T., 1939, The Fishes of the Family Sciaenidae (croakers) of California, Bureau of Marine Fisheries - Fish Bulletin No. 54, Stanford University.
 - (4) Tetra Tech, Inc., 1977, MRC Fish Program: Final Report. Tetra Tech, Inc., Pasadena, California.

An occurrence defined in the Environmental Technical Specifications [Section 5.6.3.b (5) (a)] as reportable was determined to have occurred in relation to the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Unit 1. The purpose of this letter is to report the details of that occurrence.

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During a heat treatment performed on September 13, 1978, a total weight of 2,189 pounds of fish were impinged. Approximately 80% of the sample by weight consisted of 77 individuals of a single species, Roncador stearnsii, the Spotfin Croaker.

This occurrence appears to be the result of a tropical storm which occurred during the late summer, toward the end of a period (June through September) when the species is known to be in high abundance near shore for spawning activities (Skogsberg, 1939; Frey, 1971; Lockheed, 1978). Previous impingement studies have shown a very strong positive correlation between swell or storm activity and the amount of entrained debris and fish.

A perspective of the catch is gained from the California Department of Fish and Game. Frey, 1971, reported that in a single year an estimated 37,000 pounds of Spotfin Croaker were taken by anglers fishing from piers and jetties between Point Conception and the U.S.-Mexican border. This estimate would tend to be low for the total sport catch as it does not include those fish taken from private and party boats or those taken by surf fishermen.

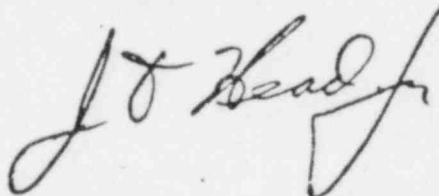
Additionally, a local estimate of surf zone angler catches within the San Onofre State Park Boundary (a five-mile stretch of beach) for a one-year period 1973-1974 indicated approximately 1,200 fish weighing 2,900 pounds (Tetra Tech, 1977).

Frey also reported that there is a reservoir of big fish offshore in Southern California that is seldom touched except during occasional "runs" as indicated by Fish and Game tagging operations. The tagging program also demonstrated the lack of resident local populations and that Spotfin travel extensively, but with no definite pattern.

Although the population size, recruitment and extent of fishing pressure upon the species is not known, the available information indicates that a single occurrence loss of 877 Spotfin Croakers would not seriously affect the population. In fact, this may be within the range of fish taken in a single locality when a good "run" is on.

As this was a chance occurrence of little biological significance, no corrective action is deemed appropriate.

Sincerely,



cc: Director, Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Director, Office of Inspection & Enforcement (20)
Director, Office of Management & Program Control (2)