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COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND
INSULAR AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
WATER AND POWER RESOURCES



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

JERRY M. PATTERSON
38TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

January 19, 1983

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Mr. Nunzio J. Palladino
Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Matomic Building
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington DC, 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On December 13, 1982, you appeared before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Committee on the Interior and Insular Affairs to discuss the issue of degradation of steam generator tubes at a number of nuclear power plants throughout the nation. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this session. I would, however, like to direct some questions regarding steam generator leaks at the San Onofre Unit I power plant in southern California to you and your staff.

It is my understanding that in 1980, the owners of the San Onofre plant, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric, found it necessary to sleeve approximately 7,000 steam generator tubes at the Unit I plant because of severe degradation of the tubes. In reference to this repair, I would like to know:

- 1) the causes of such degradation and, in the opinion of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the party or parties responsible for an occurrence of this nature;
- 2) if, (given that the material used to sleeve the faulty tubes is similar in nature to the original tubing), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission believes that sleeving is a permanent fix which will last the life of the plant;
- 3) if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission does consider sleeving to be a permanent fix, what technical studies have been done to support this position;

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CORRESPONDENCE PDR

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4) if, with the problems of Unit I in mind, the steam generators in San Onofre Units II and III have been designed in such a manner that we can expect them to be trouble-free with respect to steam generator capability?

In addition to having these questions satisfactorily answered, I am very interested in being kept informed of any issues involving the San Onofre power plant.

Thank you in advance for assistance in this matter.

Cordially,


JERRY M. PATTERSON
U.S. Congressman

JMP:pbs

*I. please to keep
you informed
of future activities
etc.*