

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

FACILITY: Southern California Edison Company
 San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Units 2 & 3
 San Clemente, California
 Docket Nos. 50-361 & 50-362

Licensee Emergency Classification:
 Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

SUBJECT: MEDIA INTEREST IN WELDING ALLEGATIONS

A former Bechtel Power Corporation quality control inspector has made public allegations concerning welding practices at San Onofre Units 2 and 3. The Region V office was previously aware of the allegations. Widespread media interest is occurring in Southern California.

Region V was made aware of the allegations concerning San Onofre during a routine inspection at the site in early September. The allogger had raised his concerns with the licensee, Southern California Edison Company. Region V inspectors reviewed the licensee's investigation and concluded that the licensee had taken comprehensive investigative action and adequately addressed all issues. The item was considered closed.

On October 6, a Los Angeles Times investigative reporter contacted Region V concerning the allogger and his concerns. The reporter subsequently arranged for the allogger to call Region V directly. The allogger then expressed some concerns in addition to those he had raised with the licensee earlier. The Los Angeles Times wrote about the allogger and his concerns in today's editions. The allogger subsequently has been widely interviewed by other area media.

Region V has been responding to media inquiries, indicating that Region V plans an inspection into the additional allegations next week.

Neither the licensee nor the NRC plans to issue a news release. Region V (San Francisco) received notification of the media stories from an on-site inspector at 8:30 a.m. on October 13, 1982. This information is current as of 3:00 p.m. on October 13, 1982.

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