

October 29, 1999

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: **Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362**
Issuance of Exemption From Certain Requirements of 10CFR50.44
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
Units 2 and 3

- References: (1) Letter dated September 10, 1998, from Dwight E. Nunn (SCE) to Document Control Desk (NRC), Subject: Request for Exemption to 10CFR50.44, 10CFR50, Appendix A, General Design Criterion 41, and 10CFR50, Appendix E, Section VI
- (2) Letter dated July 19, 1999, from Dwight E. Nunn (SCE) to Document Control Desk (NRC), Subject: Request for Exemption on Hydrogen Control, Proposed Technical Specification Change 496
- (3) Letter dated September 3, 1999, from L. Raghavan (NRC) to Harold B. Ray (SCE), Subject: Issuance of Exemption From Certain Requirements of 10CFR50.44 (TAC Nos. MA3543, MA3544, MA3545 and MA3546)

Gentlemen:

By Reference 1, Southern California Edison (SCE) requested exemption to the regulatory requirements for combustible gas control for the purpose of removing the requirements from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Units 2 and 3 design basis. By Reference 2, SCE clarified our exemption request. The NRC approved the clarified exemption request by Reference 3. The purpose of this letter is to point out a discrepancy between References 2 and 3.

The NRC letter, Reference 3, contains the following sentences in Section 3.0, Conclusion, of Enclosure 2, Safety Evaluation:

"In its letter of July 19, 1999, the licensee committed to not remove the hydrogen recombiners and the hydrogen purge subsystem from the plant and continue to include them in the plant's severe accident management guidelines. Should the licensee decide to discontinue to maintain either the hydrogen recombiners or the hydrogen purge subsystem, the licensee would inform the NRC staff *prior to implementing its action.*" [Emphasis added.]

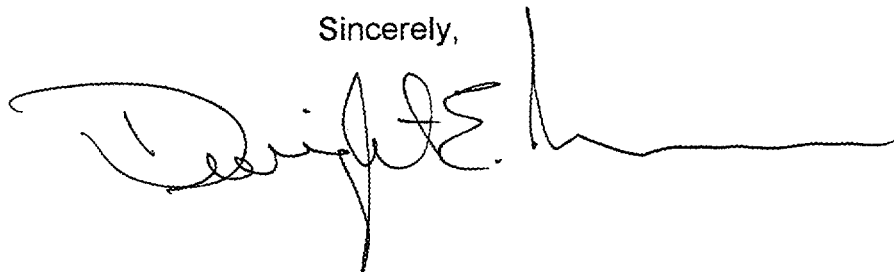
The SCE letter, Reference 2, contains the following sentence:

"If at some future time equipment becomes inoperable and Southern California Edison decides to permanently cease repair efforts, Southern California Edison will *then* inform the NRC of that decision." [Emphasis added.]

In other words, it was and continues to be SCE's intention to notify the NRC *after* the fact of any decision to discontinue efforts to repair inoperable hydrogen recombiner or hydrogen purge equipment.

If you have any questions or would like additional information concerning this subject, please feel free to contact me or Mr. J. L. Rainsberry at (949) 368-7420.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dwight E. L.", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

cc: E. W. Merschoff, Regional Administrator, NRC Region IV
J. A. Sloan, NRC Senior Resident Inspector, San Onofre Units 2 & 3
L. Raghavan, NRC Project Manager, San Onofre Units 2 and 3