

Mr. Glen R. Mills
P. O. Box 3393
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

November 22, 1999

SUBJECT: REPLY TO OCTOBER 22, 1999, LETTER TO THE NRC's OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Dear Mr. Mills:

By letter dated October 22, 1999, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Office of the Inspector General (OIG), you requested information regarding containment tendons at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS). You stated that you have recently heard reports of "breakage of prestressing tendon wires and relaxation of prestressing forces in the tendons." You requested the NRC to confirm operability of the tendons.

The regulations at 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(2)(ix), *Examination of concrete containments*, specify requirements for performing containment tendon surveillances and establish acceptance limits for identified tendon degradations. The NRC Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.35, "Determining Prestressing Forces for Inspection of Prestressed Concrete Containments," Revision 3, dated July 1990, provides guidance for inservice inspection (ISI) and surveillance of ungrouted tendons in prestressed concrete containment structure. SONGS has an established containment surveillance program that is consistent with the RG recommendations. Compliance with the containment tendon surveillance program assures the structural integrity of the containment.

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(g) and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, Article IWA-6000, on May 24, 1999, the licensee submitted its ISI summary report for SONGS Unit 2. The report documented the results of the fifteenth year containment structure tendon surveillance which was conducted between October and November 1997 (this is the latest SONGS ISI report on tendons). The report documented the licensee's engineering evaluation of identified nonconforming conditions of certain tendons. Based on its inspection and engineering evaluation, the licensee concluded that the Unit 2 containment structure post-tensioning system has met all applicable requirements and is operable. Therefore, absent any specific details to substantiate your concern, we consider this issue closed.

We trust that this has been responsive to your request. Should you have any questions or comments regarding these matters, please call me toll-free at 1-800-368-5642.

Sincerely,

/s/

Stephen Dembek, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Dembek".

Stephen Dembek, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation