

July 28, 2000

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

**Subject: Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362  
Mechanical Nozzle Seal Assembly Replacement  
Request for Relief from 10 CFR 50.55a  
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3**

- References: 1) Letter from Stephen Dembek (U.S. NRC) to Harold B. Ray, (SCE), dated July 11, 2000; Subject: San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3 – Relief Request from [sic] Use of Mechanical Nozzle Assemblies as an Alternate to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code Repairs (TAC Nos. MA6901 and MA6902)
- 2) Letter from J. L. Rainsberry (SCE) to Document Control Desk (U.S. NRC), dated April 30, 1998; Subject: Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362, Use of the Mechanical Nozzle Seal Assembly, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3 (TAC Nos. M99558 and M99559)

Gentlemen:

This letter is to clarify information regarding the current use of Mechanical Nozzle Seal Assemblies (MNSAs) by the Southern California Edison Company (SCE). By the letter dated July 11, 2000, Reference 1, the NRC approved the continued use of MNSAs at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Units 2 and 3 for the period of operation beginning with the Cycle 11 refueling outages and ending with the Cycle 12 refueling outages.

In the NRC Staff's Safety Evaluation enclosed with Reference 1, the Staff recommended "that SCE replace the other MNSA on the hot-leg of Unit 2 with an Alloy 690 nozzle, in accordance with a commitment stated in the SCE letter of April 30, 1998, "(Reference 2).

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As SCE committed in Reference 2, both of the MNSAs that were installed on one of the hot-legs were removed during the Unit 2 Cycle 10 refueling outage, and the nozzles were replaced with Alloy 690 nozzles. Therefore, this commitment is fulfilled.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding this issue, please contact me or Mr. Jack L. Rainsberry at (949) 368 – 7420.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. R. Assa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and last name "Assa" clearly distinguishable.

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