

March 21, 2001

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: **Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362**  
**Special Report: Unusual Environmental Event**  
**San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3**

Gentlemen:

In accordance with Section 4.1 of Appendix B to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-10 and NPF-15 for Units 2 and 3, SCE is required to report to the NRC unusual or important events that indicate or could result in significant environmental impact causally related to station operation. One example provided of an unusual event is the mortality of any species protected by the Endangered Species Act.

On February 21, 2001, at approximately 0800 PST, SCE discovered a dead pelican within the Units 2 and 3 protected area. At approximately 1200 PST, SCE confirmed that the pelican was a California Brown Pelican and protected by the Endangered Species Act. At approximately 1300 PST, SCE notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) of this discovery. The USFWS instructed SCE to either call animal control to come collect the carcass for disposal, or to bury it on-site. SCE buried the carcass.

SCE also provided a 4-hour report to the NRC in accordance with 10CFR50.72(b)(2)(xi) for notification to another government agency.

At the time of discovery, Unit 1 remained permanently shutdown and defueled, Unit 2 was operating at about 100% power, and Unit 3 was in Mode 5 for maintenance.

Several SCE employees had observed this pelican in and around the SONGS protected area on several occasions prior to its death. The pelican did not appear to be obviously damaged (no sign of blood or broken wings) and did not appear to be in jeopardy of injury when observed. SCE did not determine the cause of the pelican's death. Because this occurrence appears to be an isolated case and does not appear to be causally related to plant operation, there are no corrective actions that SCE could have taken to preclude this event nor to prevent its recurrence.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Clay E. Williams at (949) 368-6707.

Sincerely,



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