

Southern California Edison Company

P. O. BOX 800

2244 WALNUT GROVE AVENUE

ROSEMEAD, CALIFORNIA 91770

WILLIAM R. GOULD
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

August 19, 1983

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REGION V I&E

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region V
1450 Maria Lane, Suite 210
Walnut Creek, California 94596-5368

Attention: Mr. John B. Martin, Regional Administrator

Dear Sir:

Subject: San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
Units 2 and 3

By letter dated March 11, 1983, I advised Region V of the actions we planned to take as a result of the March 7, 1983 meeting at the Region V offices. The purpose of this letter is to describe the state of completion of those actions.

The following actions correspond to the items outlined in my March 11, 1983 letter:

1. Since March 11, Unit 2 startup has proceeded at a satisfactory pace. On August 7, 1983 the Unit 2 startup test program was completed and on August 8 the unit was turned over to the system dispatcher. Unit 3's progress during this period has been very deliberate. Unit 3 initial criticality is scheduled for August 31, 1983 and completion of low power testing is scheduled for September 21, 1983. During the Unit 3 power ascension test program we will continue to proceed at a deliberate pace and will not schedule mode changes on both units in the same time frame.
2. As was indicated by Mr. Robert Dietch in his letter of June 22, 1983 to Mr. H. R. Denton, I have been and continue to be knowledgeable of the readiness of Unit 3 for initial criticality. I am satisfied that, based on current progress, Unit 3 should be ready to go critical in late August or early September. I consider that progress on Unit 3 will not interfere with Unit 2 safety and operation. This conclusion is based in part on Unit 2's status as an operating plant.

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3. Based on the schedule described in 1 above, we understand the Unit 3 full power license meeting with the Commission has been rescheduled to mid-September, 1983.
4. Mr. David J. Fogarty, Executive Vice President, who reports directly to me, took direct and on-site responsibility for the continued startup of these units in March 1983. Mr. Fogarty continues in a direct role as of this date.
5. On March 14, 1983, I met on-site with the key officers, managers, and supervisors from the Station, Project, Quality Assurance and the Engineering, Safety and Licensing staff to insure that they understood the path we were to follow. At my request, they acted to insure that this direction was understood and followed by all personnel at all levels. Since that time I have continued to meet with these people, and as recently as Tuesday, August 16, I visited the Station and talked directly with responsible Station supervision and personnel in the control room.
6. Since the meeting on March 7, 1983, SCE has taken several actions to improve procedural compliance. These actions include reinforcement of the importance of procedural compliance during a recent offsite conference, the development of plans for continued operator training in this area and disciplinary action (including suspension) for failure to comply with procedures. We believe significant improvement has been realized and will continue to reinforce this need. While it is difficult to point to one specific action directed at improving the timeliness and candor of communications with the NRC, there has been a substantial increase in the management review of these communications. For example, we have held officer level reviews at the Station for most submittals addressing completion of license conditions.
7. As I indicated in March, I personally talked with the senior officers of our primary contractor, Bechtel, and directed them to proceed on the same deliberate path outlined to SCE personnel. Further, we had similar discussions with officers of Combustion Engineering. The effectiveness of these discussions and those with SCE employees is demonstrated by the results achieved during the intervening period.
8. In March 1983, we retained Management Analysis Corporation (MAC) to independently assess and develop recommendations for the improvement of our organization and programs related to Units 2 and 3 startup and operation. MAC reported the results of this assessment in a report entitled "Recommendations for Improvement of the Operation of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3." I personally met with senior representatives of MAC to discuss their findings and provide additional assurance we were obtaining full benefit from their investigation. By letter dated August 17, 1983, we forwarded to Mr. Denton, with copies to you, this report and the resulting SCE action plan.

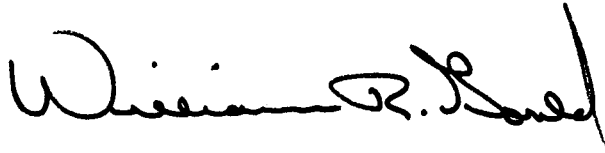
Mr. J. B. Martin

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The above discussion documents the completion of actions outlined in my March 11, 1983 letter. However, the real demonstration of the effectiveness of these actions is the safety and quality of the Unit 2 startup since that time. I take personal pride in the completion of Unit 2 and look forward to the deliberate and safe completion of Unit 3.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William R. Reed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

cc: Harold R. Denton
Richard C. DeYoung