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SUBJECT: Special rept:on 871206,condenser evacuation sys wide range
 noble gas monitor 3RI-7870 failed daily check source test.

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Southern California Edison Company

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December 18, 1987

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

Subject: Docket No. 50-362
Special Report
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 3

In accordance with Technical Specification 3.3.3.1, Table 3.3-6, Action Statement 19, of Facility Operating License No. NPF-15 for San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 3, this letter provides the required Special Report for a Condenser Evacuation System Wide Range Gas Monitor being out of service greater than 72 hours.

On 12/06/87, at 2100, with Unit 3 at 100% power, the Condenser Evacuation System Wide Range Noble Gas Monitor 3RI-7870 failed the daily check source test on the mid/high range scale. The monitor was declared inoperable and the preplanned alternate method of monitoring required by Action Statement 19 was initiated and maintained until the monitor was declared operable.

Upon investigation into the cause of the failure, it was discovered that the monitor was functioning properly. Although the monitor was still considered inoperable, the monitor remained in service while periodic checks of the mid/high range scale were performed in an attempt to catch the monitor in a failed state.

On 12/11/87, a check source test revealed that the mid/high range scale was failed and troubleshooting was re-initiated. A faulty fuse in the power control panel was determined to be the cause of these failures. The fuse end caps were loose, allowing them to break contact with the fuse upon expansion of the fuse from normal component heating. Following replacement of the fuse and testing of the monitor, the monitor was returned to service at 1123 on 12/12/87.

Since the preplanned alternate method of monitoring noble gas at the condenser evacuation system discharge was implemented during the period the monitor was inoperable, the health and safety of the plant personnel or the public was not affected by this equipment failure.

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Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

HEMog—

cc: F. R. Huey (USNRC Senior Resident Inspector, Units 1, 2 and 3)

J. B. Martin (Regional Administrator, USNRC Region V)

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO)