

Regulatory

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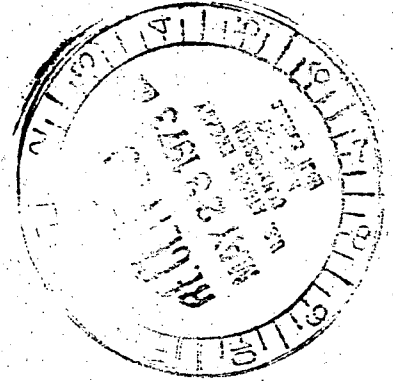
United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

In reply refer to:
ER-72/1357

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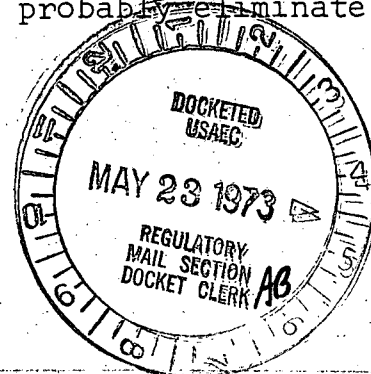


Dear Mr. Muller:

This is in response to your letter of March 23, 1973, transmitting copies of the Atomic Energy Commission's draft statement, dated March 1973, on environmental considerations for San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3, San Diego County, California.

It is unfortunate that the final environmental statement was published prior to your receiving our comments on the draft statement. This action prevented the normal inclusion of our comments and your response to these comments in the final statement. Due to the probable significant adverse impacts of the proposed project and since our comments of March 12, 1973 did not get the normal public review, we feel obligated to reiterate our earlier comments to you and suggest that the following comments and those previously furnished are given appropriate consideration.

The variety, importance, and production of marine life in the ocean off southern California have been documented in several reports. Substantial changes in species composition already have occurred as a result of artificial environmental changes, primarily pollution damage, resulting from various activities of man. Operation of this proposed project will cause further damage to aquatic resources, but the magnitude of those damages is uncertain. We do not think the final statement provides data from which a conclusion that the probable adverse environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the plant will be acceptable. Further, we have not been kept advised concerning the direction, progress, and results of ongoing studies involving interests of this Department. The establishment of a working relationship by the applicant with appropriate bureaus of this Department at the regional or field level would probably eliminate some of our concerns.

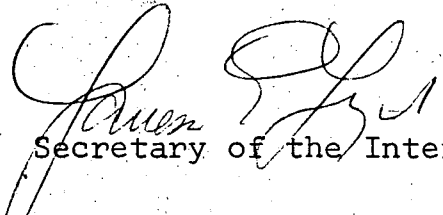


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We especially want to reiterate our earlier suggestion that the proposed stipulations be modified to incorporate our recommendations contained in our letter of March 12, 1973.

We hope these comments will be helpful in your considerations involving the issuance of a construction permit for this project.

Sincerely yours,


Assistant

Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Daniel R. Muller
Assistant Director for Environmental
Projects - Directorate of Licensing
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545