Southern California Edison Company

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January 14, 1983

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

Attention: Mr. R. H. Engelken, Regional Administrator

Dear Sir:

Subject: Docket No. 50-362
30-Day Report
Licensee Event Report No. 82-008
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 3

Pursuant to Section 6.9.1.13.b of Appendix A Technical Specifications to Facility Operating License NPF-15 for San Onofre Unit 3, this submittal provides the required 30-day written report and copy of Licensee Event Report (LER) resulting from an incident involving Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) 3.4.6 associated with Reactor Coolant System (RCS) chemistry.

LCO 3.4.6 requires steady state RCS chloride level to be maintained below 0.15 ppm at all times. On December 15, 1982 at 0224 while in Mode 5, a routine sampling of RCS water indicated a chloride level of 0.28 ppm. The Action Statement associated with LCO 3.4.6 requires reduction of RCS pressure to less than or equal to 500 psia, if the out-of-limit condition exists for more than 24 hours, and performance of an engineering evaluation to determine the effects of the out-of-limit condition on the structural integrity of the RCS.

The RCS chloride level was reduced to less than 0.15 ppm on December 16, 1982 at 0300, however, it increased above the limit of 0.15 ppm at 1115 and remained in that condition until December 18, 1982 at 0030 when it was again reduced below the limit. RCS pressure was less than 500 psia throughout this incident.

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The cause of this incident was displacement of chloride from the purification ion exchange resin. This can occur when hydrazine (used for Oxygen control during cold shutdowns) decomposes to form ammonia which, in the presence of boric acid, forms ammonium borate. The borate ions then displace chlorides from the anion resin. The ion exchange resin was replaced on December 18, 1982 and the RCS chloride level returned to within the requirements of LCO 3.4.6.

The chloride level remained higher than normal (but within the limits of LCO 3.4.6) at approximately 0.13 ppm, until December 21, 1982 when the ion exchanger was "fluffed" as an additional corrective measure, reducing the chloride level to less than 0.05 ppm. Appropriate chemistry procedures will be reviewed and revised as necessary to prevent recurrence of this incident.

An engineering evaluation was performed as required by LCO 3.4.6 and it was concluded that the RCS remains acceptable for continued operation. Enclosed LER 82-008 addresses this incident.

There was no impact on the health and safety of plant personnel or the public as a result of this incident. If there are any questions regarding the above, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Enclosure: LER 82-008

cc: A. E. Chaffee (USNRC Resident Inspector, San Onofre Units 2 & 3)
R. J. Pate (USNRC Resident Inspector, San Onofre Units 2 & 3)

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Office of Management Information and Program Control

Institute of Nuclear Power Operations