



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

December 3, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-361  
and 50-362

Mr. Harold B. Ray  
Senior Vice President  
Southern California Edison Co.  
Irvine Operations Center  
23 Parker Street  
Irvine, California 92718

Mr. Edwin A. Guiles  
Vice President  
Engineering and Operations  
San Diego Gas & Electric Co.  
101 Ash Street  
San Diego, California 92112

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: INSERVICE INSPECTION RELIEF REQUESTS B-7, B-8, B-9 AND CODE CASE  
N-481 FOR SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3  
(TAC Nos. M80698 AND M80699)

Southern California Edison (SCE) found during a performance demonstration test that the alternative examinations proposed in its letter dated June 26, 1991, were not successful in validating the acceptability of full volumetric examination from the pipe exterior surface to detect outside diameter, surface-connected, crack-like defects. As a result of the unsuccessful test, the licensee submitted revised Request No. B-7 by letter dated March 20, 1992, for alternative examinations replacing the version of the Relief Request No. B-7 transmitted by letter dated June 26, 1991. Also contained in this letter was Relief Request B-8 from the requirements of Section XI of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (the Code) which had been determined to be impractical to perform at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), Units 2 and 3. In a letter dated July 31, 1992, SCE identified 6 additional welds in each unit which are not covered by existing relief requests, but for which relief identical to Relief Request B-7 is appropriate. In this letter, SCE submitted Relief Request B-9 to cover these welds and proposes an alternate inspection method that is identical to the inspection method proposed for B-7. Separate from the above, the licensee's June 26, 1991 letter, provided supplementary information necessary to clarify portions of the SONGS Units 2 and 3 first 10-year interval Inservice Inspection Program.

The NRC staff, with technical assistance from its contractor, the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, has evaluated SCE's request for code relief, request to use alternative examinations, and the additional information pertaining to the first 10-year interval Inservice Inspection Program for SONGS Units 2 and 3. The staff has concluded that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(6)(i), relief may be granted for Relief Request No. B-8 and, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i), the alternative examinations for Relief

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Requests B-7 and B-9 may be used. In addition, the staff concluded that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i), the licensee may use Code Case N-481 for the Reactor Coolant Pump Casing Welds as an alternative examination. The above alternative examinations will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety for SONGS Units 2 and 3. Furthermore, the staff concludes that the additional information provided regarding the first 10-year interval Inservice Inspection program is acceptable. The staff's Safety Evaluation is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

James W. Clifford, Acting Project Director  
for:

Theodore R. Quay, Director  
Project Directorate V  
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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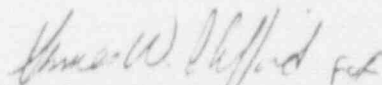
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Messrs. Ray and Guiles

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Sincerely,



Theodore R. Quay, Director  
Project Directorate V  
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

Messrs. Ray and Guiles  
Southern California Edison Company

cc:

James A. Beoletto, Esq.  
Southern California Edison Company  
Irvine Operations Center  
23 Parker Street  
Irvine, California 92718

Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
County of San Diego  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335  
San Diego, California 92101

Alan R. Watts, Esq.  
Rourke & Woodruff  
701 S. Parker St. No. 7000  
Orange, California 92668-4702

Mr. Sherwin Harris  
Resource Project Manager  
Public Utilities Department  
City of Riverside  
3900 Main Street  
Riverside, California 92522

Mr. Charles B. Brinkman, Manager  
Washington Nuclear Operations  
ABB Combustion Engineering Nuclear Power  
12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 330  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Mr. Howard J. Wong  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region V  
1450 Maria Lane, Suite 210  
Walnut Creek, California 94596

Mr. Don J. Womeldorf  
Chief, Environmental Management Branch  
California Department of Health Services  
714 P Street, Room 616  
Sacramento, California 95814

San Onofre Nuclear Generating  
Station, Unit Nos. 2 and 3

Mr. Richard J. Kosiba, Project Manager  
Berhtel Power Corporation  
12440 E. Imperial Highway  
Norwalk, California 90650

Mr. Robert G. Lacy  
Manager, Nuclear Department  
San Diego Gas & Electric Company  
P. O. Box 1831  
San Diego, California 92112

Mr. Hank Kocol  
Radiologic Health Branch  
State Department of Health Services  
Post Office Box 942732  
Sacramento, California 94234

Resident Inspector/San Onofre NPS  
c/o U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Post Office Box 4329  
San Clemente, California 92674

Mayor  
City of San Clemente  
100 Avenida Presidio  
San Clemente, California 92672

Regional Administrator, Region V  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
14 C Maria Lane, Suite 210  
Walnut Creek, California 94596