



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

DEC 16 1996

Harold B. Ray, Executive Vice President
Southern California Edison Co.
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
P.O. Box 128
San Clemente, California 92674-0128

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-361/96-17; 50-362/96-17 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Ray:

An NRC inspection was conducted November 18-22, 1996, at your San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3, reactor facilities. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection. The overall results of this inspection were discussed with Mr. G. Gibson on December 16, 1996.

This inspection focused on the circumstances surrounding the mispositioning of valve 3MU995 (reactor coolant vent gas system orifice gate valve) and the followup of a previous violation addressing the same valve. The inspection revealed a weakness in your locked valve program that permitted a single procedural error to result in valve 3MU995 being inadvertently left open for approximately 1 year. During this time the reactor was operated in modes where the reactor coolant gas vent system is designed to function. Although the mispositioned valve did not render the reactor coolant gas vent system inoperable, it placed the system in a degraded functional state and also increased the probability of a small break loss of coolant accident.

The mispositioning of valve 3MU995 was identified as a violation of Technical Specification 6.8.1 (in effect at the time of the violation). Though generally meeting the criteria of a noncited violation, the violation is cited for two reasons: (1) you missed an opportunity to earlier discover the mispositioned status of valve 3MU995, and (2) your immediate corrective actions upon discovery of valve 3MU995 being open did not include a comprehensive review of other valves that may have been similarly mispositioned.

The inspection also revealed that your corrective actions for the previous violation, involving the failure to perform a 10 CFR 50.59 evaluation or update the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report during the field change where an orifice was replaced with valve 3MU995, were not sufficient for closure of this item.

The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding this violation is described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part,

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to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure(s), and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Gwynn, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-361; 50-362
License Nos.: NPF-10; NPF-15

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report
50-361/96-17; 50-362/96-17

cc w/enclosures:

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

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Mr. Steve Hsu
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Mayor
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California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness, Rm. 4102
San Francisco, California 94102

E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

L. J. Callan	Resident Inspector
DRP Director	DRS-PSB
Branch Chief (DRP/F, WCFO)	MIS System
Senior Project Inspector (DRP/F, WCFO)	RIV File
Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)	M. Hammond (PAO, WCFO)
Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)	

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JEDyer	TPGwynn			
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E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

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DRP Director	DRS-PSB
Branch Chief (DRP/F, WCFO)	MIS System
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MFRunyanmb		JJRussell		MBFields		CAVanDemburgh		TPGwynn	
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D:DRP		D:DRS							
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