



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

December 13, 1996

Mr. Glen R. Mills
P.O. Box 3393
Mission Viejo, CA 92690

SUBJECT: CONCERNS RELATED TO THE SPENT FUEL POOL AT SAN ONOFRE
NUCLEAR GENERATING STATIONS UNIT 1 (SONGS)

Dear Mr. Mills:

This is a follow-up to our letter dated September 27, 1996, regarding your concerns related to the spent fuel pool (SFP) at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), Unit 1. In our letter, we explained that your third concern was under review. This concern related to why "the NRC failed to discipline SONGS for failure to monitor the spent fuel pool leak from 1981 to 1986." The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the results of our review on this matter.

Our review included research into the regulatory requirements which existed at the time for monitoring the SFP leak detection system during the period 1981 through 1986 when the SFP monitoring well was not checked and/or recorded routinely. The review also included a search for reports or records related to NRC's review of the SFP leakage during the period in question and discussions with cognizant NRC staff members who were involved with SONGS, Unit 1, at the time. In accordance with our enforcement deliberative process, enforcement panels were held on October 31 and November 18, 1996, to discuss the results of this review.

In January 1986, the licensee identified a leak in the Unit 1 SFP. In a September 1986 status report, the licensee identified that there were no procedural requirements for monitoring the SFP for leakage. Notwithstanding the lack of specific requirements, also in September 1986, the licensee initiated a routine check of the leak detection system and logging of the results. Our current review confirmed that the Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) in effect at the time did not include a detailed description of the leak detection system and did not include requirements for monitoring for SFP leaks. In addition to the lack of FSAR or procedural requirements, we did not find any other requirements which would have required the licensee to monitor the Unit 1 SFP for leakage during the period in question. As a result of our review, we have concluded that no enforcement was, or is appropriate in this matter.

In May 1988, the FSAR was Updated (UFSAR) and a more detailed description of the SFP leak detection system and monitoring provisions were included in this revision. In addition, the licensee recently upgraded the SFP leak detection capabilities with the installation of a new system which provides continuous indication of SFP monitoring well levels in the control room and includes an automated pumpdown system.

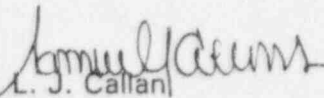
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We appreciate your interest in these issues; information from concerned citizens such as yourself provide the NRC with important input to our regulatory process.

Sincerely,


L. J. Callan
xy/ Regional Administrator

Docket No.: 50-361
License No.: NPF-10

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