

May 16, 1984

✓ 1st E
So. Calif.
PR

The Honorable Richard L. Ottinger, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff today informed the Southern California Edison Company that it is proposing a \$250,000 fine against the company for disabling a safety system at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Unit 3.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, May 16, 1984.

Sincerely,

Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Rep. Carlos Moorhead

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:
Sen. Simpson/cc: Sen. Hart
Rep. Udall/cc: Rep. Lujan
Rep. Markey/cc: Rep. Marlenee
Sen. Cranston
Sen. Wilson
Rep. Packard

8510230164 851004
PDR FOIA
JACOBS85-478 PDR

53

OFFICE	OCA						
SURNAME	KENT: Tac						
DATE	5/16/84						



UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION V

1450 Marina Lane, Suite 210, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

NRC:V-1484
CONTACT: JIM HANCHETT
BUS: (415) 943-3809
HOME: (415) 820-3840

TRANSMITTED VIA BUSINESS WIRE AT
1 P.M., WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1984

NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$250,000 FINE AGAINST SO. CALIF. EDISON CO.
FOR LICENSE VIOLATIONS AT SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR STATION UNIT 3

WALNUT CREEK, CA -- The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff - today informed the Southern California Edison Company that it is proposing a \$250,000 fine against the company for disabling a safety system at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Unit 3 between March 4 and March 17, 1984.

The violations cited by the NRC staff involved both of the containment spray systems at San Onofre Unit 3 being inoperable due to improper valve alignments from March 4 to March 17, despite at least two occasions when operating personnel should have detected the valving error. The containment spray system is designed to spray water inside the reactor containment building in the event of an accident to reduce pressure inside the building and reduce the concentration of radioactive iodine within the containment atmosphere.

John B. Martin, Administrator of the NRC Region V office in Walnut Creek, CA, told Southern California Edison Company in a May 16 letter that the most recent violations along with two other fines against the company in 1983 for similar violations indicate that the company still has not made sufficient improvements in its management controls.

Martin said that although the violations did not present a serious threat to public health and safety due to the availability of a redundant containment cooling system, he was, however, seriously concerned that this event resulted in a significant degradation of a safety system at San Onofre Unit 3.

Under NRC's enforcement policy, when the NRC staff proposes a civil penalty, the licensee is given 30 days to either pay the fine or submit a formal protest. If the utility denies the alleged violation, the NRC staff will consider that response before deciding whether to impose, mitigate or withdraw the proposed civil penalty.

#