



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

September 25, 1984

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Southern Calif. Ed.*

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reduced by fifty percent a proposed civil penalty against Southern California Edison Company for violations at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 3, identified during a special inspection in March 1984.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, September 25, 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

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DATE	<i>9-25-84</i>						



UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Tuesday, September 25, 1984)

NRC STAFF REDUCES PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reduced by fifty percent a proposed civil penalty against Southern California Edison Company for violations at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 3, identified during a special inspection in March 1984. In a September 24, 1984, letter, the NRC said it is imposing a \$125,000 fine for the violations, instead of the proposed \$250,000, because of SCE's "prompt and extensive corrective action."

In May, the NRC staff cited SCE for disabling a safety system at San Onofre Unit 3 between March 4 and March 17, 1984, and proposed a \$250,000 civil penalty, giving the company 30 days to either pay the fine or formally submit a protest. In a June 15 letter, supplemented by an August 13 letter, SCE admitted the violations but asked that the fine not be imposed because of mitigating circumstances.

Richard C. DeYoung, Director of NRC's Office of Inspection and Enforcement, has notified the company of his finding that the fine should be reduced by fifty percent because of SCE's prompt and extensive corrective actions, including initiatives taken to improve management and supervisory effectiveness. Under NRC regulations, the company now has 30 days to either pay the civil penalty or request a hearing before an NRC administrative judge.

The violations involved both subsystems of the containment spray systems at San Onofre Unit 3 being inoperable due to improper valve alignments from March 4 to March 17. 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 in the containment atmosphere.

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