SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
An EDISON INTERNATIONAL Company

Thomas J. Palmisano
Vice President Decommissioning &
Chief Nuclear Officer

SCE-CEP-LTR-081618

August 16, 2018

Dear Community Engagement Panel members,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the spent fuel canister loading incident that was discussed at the August 9 CEP meeting. As you are aware, the matter was raised by a contractor employee who questioned why specific details of the incident were not shared during my presentation.

On Friday, Aug. 3, Holtec experienced an issue while lowering a loaded Multi-Purpose Canister (MPC) into the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) structure. The MPC was eventually placed into the structure safely and successfully, however, this is a significant incident and not acceptable.

This was the 29th canister being placed in the ISFSI and similar to the other canisters, the MPC was loaded with 37 spent fuel assemblies, welded shut and filled with helium. It had been transported from the spent fuel pool to the UMAX ISFSI structure to be lowered into its storage location. As the Holtec crew lowered the spent fuel canister into the Cavity Enclosure Container (CEC) on the dry cask storage pad, the canister got lodged on an inner ring that helps to guide it into place. There is a very snug fit in the CECs, and it is not unusual for it to take the loading team a few adjustments to get the canister aligned appropriately. The crew performing this work did not initially recognize that the canister had stalled while lodged on the inner ring and continued to lower the rigging. Supervision and SCE's oversight team determined the canister was not seated properly, and within one hour, made adjustments and lowered the canister safely onto the bottom of the CEC.

I have attached a non-proprietary graphic from Holtec of the MPC and the CEC to help illustrate where the inner ring is located and where the canister was lodged.

The significance of the event is that during the short period of time, the MPC was lodged on the inner ring and was not fully supported by the rigging. Although unlikely due to the position of the MPC on the inner ring, the canister could have fallen approximately 18 feet to the bottom of the CEC. If this had occurred, it would not have created a hazard to the public or employees since the MPC, as part of its robust design, is built and analyzed for a drop greater than 18 feet without breaching the canister.

P.O. Box 128
San Clemente, CA 92674
(949) 368-6575
Fax: (949) 368-6183
tom.palmisano@sce.com

Immediately after this, SCE stopped all canister loading activities, and safety stand-down meetings were conducted with the fuel handling and loading teams to understand the incident and communicate lessons learned. Additional actions and training were added to the loading processes, which is a part of SCE's ongoing efforts to continuously improve its work practices. SCE does this routinely to ensure it is continuously evaluating its performance, and that of its contractors, communicating with the crews and incorporating best practices.

All spent fuel downloading activities remain halted until SCE is satisfied with Holtec's corrective actions.

SCE informed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspectors of the issue and performance concerns, and have had several follow up phone calls with NRC personnel to provide additional information. SCE continues to update the NRC regularly on its actions.

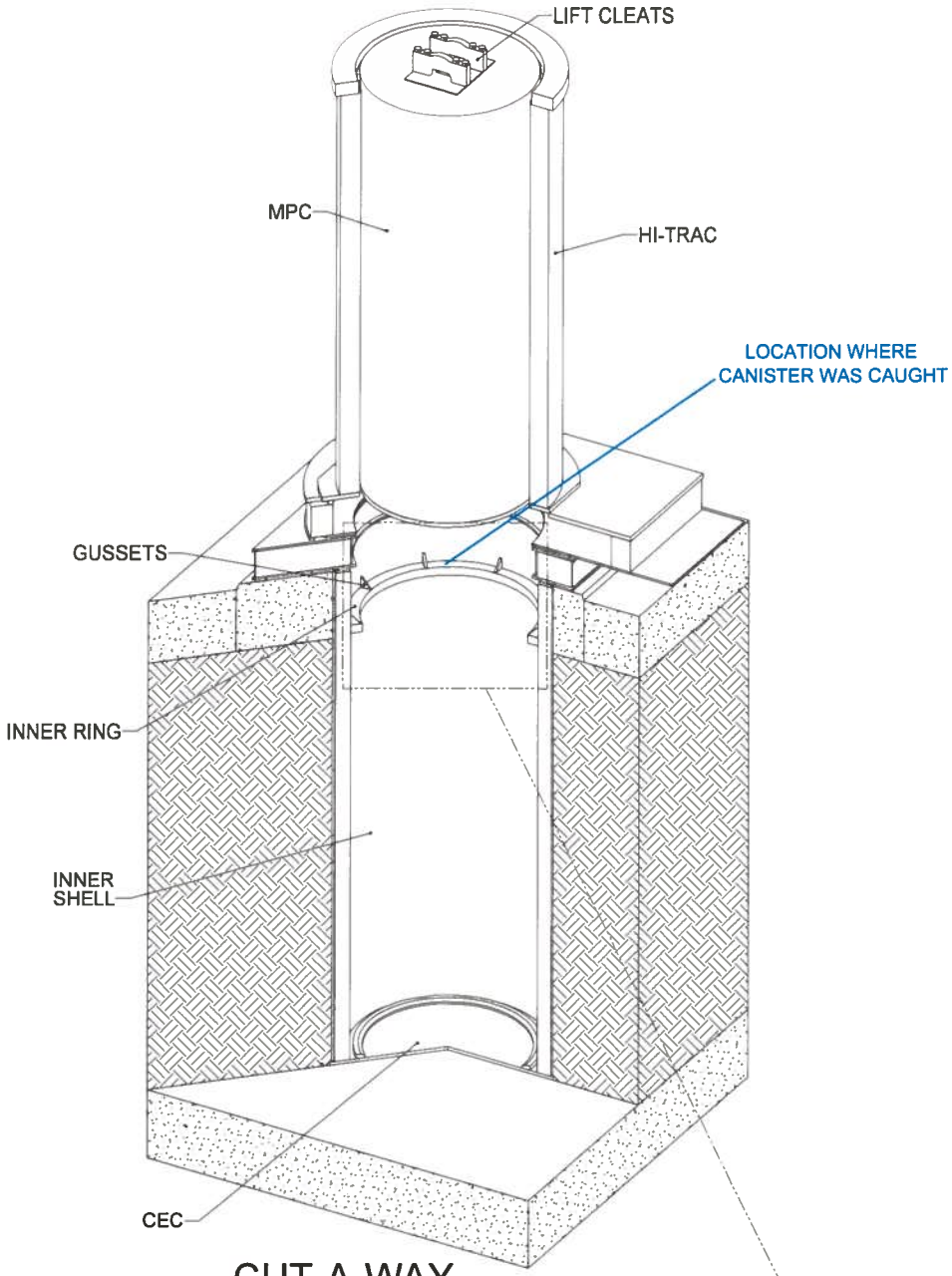
The contractor employee who raised his concerns over this event during the CEP meeting acted in accordance with our commitment to a Safety Conscious Work Environment, and I commend him for his willingness to speak up. I want to reassure you that SCE and its contractors have no tolerance for retaliation and welcome the feedback and concerns expressed by all employees. This is a fundamental part of the industry's nuclear safety culture.

SCE is committed to protecting the safety of the public and takes these incidents very seriously as it progresses through the decommissioning process. I will provide you further updates as we complete our actions.

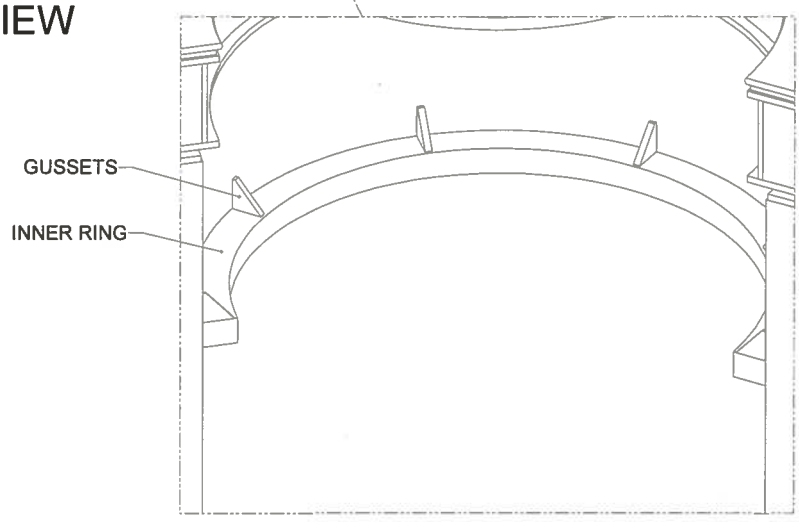
Sincerely,

ACM/jm

Attachment: SONGS UMAX Isometric Diagram



CUT-A-WAY
ISOMETRIC VIEW



DETAIL VIEW