October 19, 2018

Dear Community Engagement Panel members,

As you know, fuel transfer operations at San Onofre have been on hold since Aug. 3 when we discovered performance errors during the downloading of a spent fuel canister. The canister became wedged against the cavity enclosure container before it was properly positioned. There was never a risk to the health and safety of employees or the public. But I felt it imperative we pause and reevaluate the procedures of our contractors, as well as the oversight processes provided by Southern California Edison employees. It was the right thing to do.

Over the last several weeks, we have been hard at work analyzing the event and developing cause evaluations to help us better understand the performance gaps in our overall fuel transfer operation. With concurrence from independent experts, we are re-writing procedures, developing new processes, installing new monitoring technology, and continuing to develop appropriate training programs for our onsite personnel to ensure that when we’re ready to begin the fuel transfer operation again, we will not encounter a situation like the one we saw on Aug. 3.

We’ve worked closely with our contractors throughout this process and they understand our expectations for their performance that must be met going forward.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission continues its review of the event and our corrective actions, and has provided valuable feedback. Additionally, the NRC has created a new page on its website dedicated to its progress on the special inspection. This page includes some of its preliminary findings and answers to questions asked by the public. Many of these findings match our own conclusions. I believe it’s important to note that our robust analysis, reviewed by third-party experts, concludes the canister would maintain its integrity, with margin, if dropped. We have provided that analysis to the NRC and it’s currently under review.

Once the NRC completes its inspection and appropriately notifies us and the public of its findings, we will also provide an update to the public, and prepare to move forward with reloading. We will do so with our improved processes, procedures, and new monitoring technology firmly in place.

Nothing is more important to us than the safe transfer of our spent nuclear fuel to dry cask storage. We must continue to hold ourselves to the highest standards of safety, show the right level of ownership in providing oversight, and be passionate about adhering to our procedures and processes.

And that is what we are going to do. That is my commitment to you.

Sincerely,

ACM/jm