

October 25, 1996

Mr. Harold B. Ray
Executive Vice President
Southern California Edison Company
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
P. O. Box 128
San Clemente, California 92674-0128

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING - SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 2 AND 3 (TAC NOS. M96910 AND M96911)

Dear Mr. Ray:

Enclosed is a copy of the subject notice that relates to Southern California Edison's application for amendment dated October 11, 1996, to reinstate provisions of the current San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), Unit Nos. 2 and 3 technical specifications that were revised as part of Amendment Nos. 127 and 116. These amendments adopted the recommendations of NUREG-1432, "Standard Technical Specifications Combustion Engineering Plants."

The proposed change would revise Technical Specification 3.9.6, "Refueling Water Level."

The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Mel B. Fields, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-361
and 50-362

Enclosure: Notice

cc w/encl: See next page

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Mr. Harold B. Ray

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October 25, 1996

cc w/encl:

Mr. R. W. Krieger, Vice President
Southern California Edison Company
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
P. O. Box 128
San Clemente, California 92674-0128

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San Clemente, California 92674

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1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, California 92101

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Mr. Sherwin Harris
Resource Project Manager
Public Utilities Department
City of Riverside
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Riverside, California 92522

Dr. Harvey Collins, Chief
Division of Drinking Water and
and Environmental Management
California Department of Health Services
P. O. Box 942732
Sacramento, California 94234-7320

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Mr. Terry Winter
Manager, Power Operations
San Diego Gas & Electric Company
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Mr. Steve Hsu
Radiologic Health Branch
State Department of Health Services
Post Office Box 942732
Sacramento, California 94234

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONSOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANYDOCKET NOS. 50-361 AND 50-362NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES, PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-10 and NPF-15 issued to Southern California Edison Company (the licensee) for operation of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), Unit Nos. 2 and 3 located in San Diego County, California.

The proposed amendment would revise Technical Specification 3.9.6, "Refueling Water Level." The proposed change is required to restore certain provisions of the SONGS Units 2 and 3 operating practice that were not incorporated during the conversion to the improved technical specifications (Amendment Nos. 127 and 116 dated February 9, 1996).

Before issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

The Commission has made a proposed determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of

accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

1. The proposed change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of any accident previously evaluated.

Proposed Technical Specification Change Number NPF-10/15-472 (PCN-472) addresses modifications to the Technical Specifications for San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Units 2 and 3 approved by Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Amendment Nos. 127 and 116. NRC Amendment Nos. 127 and 116 approved changes to adopt the recommendations of NUREG-1432, "Standard Technical Specifications Combustion Engineering Plants," requested through Proposed Technical Specification Change Number NPF-10/15-299 (PCN-299). The proposed changes were identified during drafting of the procedure changes required to implement NRC Amendment Nos. 127 and 116.

PCN-472 is required to restore certain provisions of the previous TSs that were not incorporated in Amendment Nos. 127 and 116. Changes are proposed that would revise Technical Specification (TS) 3.9.6, "Refueling Water Level."

Specifically, the proposed change revises the applicability of TS 3.9.6, includes a clarifying note to TS 3.9.6, and revises Surveillance Requirement (SR) 3.9.6.1 for consistency. The proposed reduction in water level to 23 feet above the fuel is considered acceptable since the fuel assemblies would be seated in the reactor vessel during CEA coupling, uncoupling, and weighing, and during removal of the four-finger CEAs. Consequently, no fuel damage could occur above the top of the fuel, and the 23 feet of water above the top of the fuel would continue to ensure that sufficient water depth is available to remove 99% of the assumed 10% iodine gas activity released from a fuel assembly damaged by any conceivable accident.

Operation of the facility would remain unchanged as a result of the proposed changes. Therefore, the proposed change will not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of any accident previously evaluated.

2. The proposed change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated.

The proposed change will restore provisions of the previous TSs for SONGS Units 2 and 3. The proposed change would revise the applicability of TS 3.9.6, include a clarifying note to TS 3.9.6, and revise SR 3.9.6.1 for consistency.

Operation of the facility would remain unchanged as a result of the proposed change. Therefore, the proposed change will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

3. The proposed change does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The proposed change will restore provisions of the previous TSs for SONGS Units 2 and 3 and make certain additional changes for clarity. Operation of the facility would remain unchanged as a result of the proposed change. Therefore, the proposed change will not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 30-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 30-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves

no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of issuance and provide for opportunity for a hearing after issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D22, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By December 2, 1996, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman

Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the temporary local public document room located at the Science Library, University of California, P.O. Box 19557, Irvine, California 92713. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion which support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. Petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

If a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last 10 days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1-(800) 248-5100 (in Missouri 1-(800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number NI023 and the following message addressed to William H. Bateman, Director, Project Directorate IV-2: petitioner's name and telephone number, date petition was mailed, plant name, and publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to T. E. Oubre, Esquire, Southern California Edison Company, P.O. Box 800, Rosemead, California 91770.

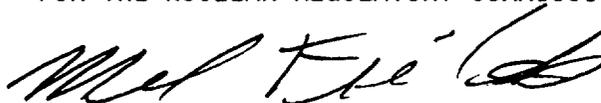
Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be

entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated October 11, 1996, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the temporary local public document room located at the Science Library, University of California, P.O. Box 19557, Irvine, California 92713.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25th day of October 1996.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mel B. Fields".

Mel B. Fields, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation