

August 25 1999

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

SUBJECT: SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RELATED TO THE REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION TO 10 CFR 50.44, AND 10 CFR PART 50, APPENDIX A, GENERAL DESIGN CRITERION 41 (TAC NOS. MA3543 AND MA3544)

Dear Mr. Ray:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for exemption dated September 10, 1998, as supplemented July 19, 1999. The proposed exemption would remove requirements for hydrogen control systems from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Units 2 and 3 design basis.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/s/

L. Raghavan, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

1/1
DF01

DISTRIBUTION

Docket File OGC
PUBLIC ACRS
PDIV-2 Reading LSmith, RGN-IV
SRichards(clo)

7/8/99

To receive a copy of this document, indicate "C" in the box							
OFFICE	PDIV-2/PM	C	PDIV-2/LA	C	RGEBC/BC	OGC	PDIV-2/SC
NAME	LRaghavan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CJamerson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CACarpenter	ABachmann	SDembek
DATE	8/12/99		8/12/99		8/12/99	8/19/99	8/23/99

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\PDIV-2\SONGS\EAa3543.wpd
OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

9908300320 990825
PDR ADDCK 05000361
P PDR

CP-1



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 25, 1999

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

SUBJECT: SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION - ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RELATED TO THE
REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION TO 10 CFR 50.44, AND 10 CFR PART 50,
APPENDIX A, GENERAL DESIGN CRITERION 41 (TAC NOS. MA3543 AND
MA3544)

Dear Mr. Ray:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for exemption dated September 10, 1998, as supplemented July 19, 1999. The proposed exemption would remove requirements for hydrogen control systems from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Units 2 and 3 design basis.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Raghavan", written over a horizontal line.

L. Raghavan, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3

cc:

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

Chairman, Board of Supervisors
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Alan R. Watts, Esq.
Woodruff, Spradlin & Smart
701 S. Parker St. No. 7000
Orange, CA 92668-4720

Mr. Sherwin Harris
Resource Project Manager
Public Utilities Department
City of Riverside
3900 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92522

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Harris Tower & Pavilion
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-8064

Mr. Michael Olson
San Onofre Liaison
San Diego Gas & Electric Company
P.O. Box 1831
San Diego, CA 92112-4150

Mr. Steve Hsu
Radiologic Health Branch
State Department of Health Services
Post Office Box 942732
Sacramento, CA 94234

Resident Inspector/San Onofre NPS
c/o U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Post Office Box 4329
San Clemente, CA 92674

Mayor
City of San Clemente
100 Avenida Presidio
San Clemente, CA 92672

Mr. Dwight E. Nunn, Vice President
Southern California Edison Company
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
P.O. Box 128
San Clemente, CA 92674-0128

Mr. Dave Farrel
Environmental Review Coordinator
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY
DOCKET NOS. 50-361 AND 50-362
SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would exempt Southern California Edison from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.44, "Standards for combustible gas control system in light-water cooled power reactors," and 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A, General Design Criterion 41, "Containment atmosphere clean-up."

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated September 10, 1998, as supplemented July 19, 1999.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would allow the licensee to remove hydrogen control requirements from the SONGS Units 2 and 3 design basis. The hydrogen control requirements in the SONGS design basis are not required to provide assurance that the containment would not

fail due to combustible gas accumulation and ignition during accidents where fission products would be present in the containment atmosphere. The exemption would also allow the licensee to modify emergency operating instructions to remove operator action requirements for controlling hydrogen concentration in containment because the hydrogen control requirements are no longer necessary.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action. Current design analyses assess the potential for offsite dose consequences based on maximum allowable leakage and the potential for containment failure. The proposed exemption does not change the allowed leakage, and therefore does not affect the offsite dose consequences based on this criteria. The licensee has concluded and the Commission agrees that removing the hydrogen control systems will not result in containment failure for any postulated accident or normal operating conditions. The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historical sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3, dated April 1981, with Errata dated June 1981.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on August 6, 1999, the staff consulted with the California State official, Mr. Steven Hsu of the Radiologic Health Branch, State Department of Health Services, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated September 10, 1998, as supplemented by letter dated July 19, 1999, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L

Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Main Library, University of California, Irvine, California 92713.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 25th day of August 1999.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Raghavan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

L. Raghavan, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation