

MAR 13 1984

Docket No.: 50-362

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Mr. James C. Holcombe  
Vice President - Power Supply  
San Diego Gas & Electric Company  
101 Ash Street  
Post Office Box 1831  
San Diego, California 92112

Gentlemen:

Subject: Issuance of Amendment No. 9 to Facility Operating License NPF-15  
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 3

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 9 to Facility Operating License NPF-15 for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 3, located in San Diego County, California. The amendment temporarily modifies Technical Specification 3.6.1.7 to allow the 8-inch containment purge system to be operated up to 3000 hours per 365 days, prior to the third refueling outage. After the third refueling outage, the limit will revert to the previous value of 1000 hours per 365 days. The change is necessitated by the unexpectedly high leakage of fission gasses from the fuel, resulting in high noble gas activity levels in the containment building.

Although a permanent increase in the purge limit was requested in your letter of January 3, 1984, the staff has concluded that there is no basis for granting the increased limit beyond the third refueling outage, because at that time all of the fuel presently in the reactor will have been removed. Therefore, we are denying your request for a permanent increase, but are granting the increase until the third refueling outage. In your letter of February 16, 1984, you indicated that the temporary increase in the purge limit is acceptable.

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A copy of the Safety Evaluation supporting this amendment is also enclosed.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:  
George W. Knighton

George W. Knighton, Chief  
Licensing Branch No. 3  
Division of Licensing

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 9 to NPF-15
2. Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

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San Onofre

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Mayor, City of San Clemente  
San Clemente, CA 92672

Chairman, Board Supervisors  
San Diego County  
San Diego, CA 92412

California Dept. of Health  
ATTN: Chief, Environmental  
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Radiological Health Section  
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Mr. Joseph O. Ward, Chief  
Radiological Health Branch  
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Sacramento, California 95814

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

SAN DIEGO GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

THE CITY OF ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

DOCKET NO. 50-362

SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT 3

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 9  
License No. NPF-15

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
  - A. The application for amendment for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 3 (the facility) filed by the Southern California Edison Company on behalf of itself and San Diego Gas and Electric Company, The City of Riverside and The City of Anaheim, California (licensees) dated January 3, 1984 and February 16, 1984, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations as set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
  - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, as amended, the provisions of the Act, and the regulations of the Commission;
  - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
  - D. The issuance of this license amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public;
  - E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.

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2. Accordingly, the license is hereby amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-15 to read as follows:

(2) Technical Specifications

The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, as revised through Amendment No. 9, are hereby incorporated in the license. SCE shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.

3. This amendment is effective as of the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Original signed by:  
George W. Knighton

George W. Knighton, Chief  
Licensing Branch No. 3  
Division of Licensing

Attachment:  
Changes to the Technical  
Specifications

Date of Issuance: **MAR 13 1984**

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DL:LB#3  
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3/12/84

SAFETY EVALUATION

AMENDMENT NO. 9 TO NPF-15

SAN ONOFRE GENERATING STATION, UNIT 3

DOCKET NO. 50-362

Introduction and Summary

By letter dated January 3, 1984, the licensees (Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, the City of Anaheim, California, and the City of Riverside, California) requested that an amendment be issued to Facility Operating License NPF-15 for operation of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 3. The licensees requested that the limit on operation of the 8-inch containment purge system (1000 hours per 365 days) be permanently changed to 3000 hours per 365 days.

Evaluation

Unexpectedly high noble gas activity levels in the San Onofre 3 containment building during 100% power operation have necessitated routine operation of the 8-inch purge system to prevent containment activity levels from exceeding the purge activity limit. If the purge activity limit is exceeded, the plant must be shut down and no purging done until the activity level decays to an acceptable level. Routine purging is also required to maintain the activity level sufficiently low to permit personnel access to system components inside containment for inspection and maintenance, and to maintain containment pressure within the Technical Specification limit.

Because of the unexpectedly high noble gas activity levels in the San Onofre 3 containment, the licensees requested that they be permitted to use the 8-inch purge system up to 3,000 hours per 365 days.

Inasmuch as the high noble gas activity levels are thought to be unique to the first core of Unit 3, and purge system usage will continue to be restricted to safety-related needs in accordance with staff guidelines and usage will be in compliance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.36a so as to assure that releases are maintained as low as reasonably achievable, we conclude that using the 8-inch purge system for 3,000 hours per 365 days is acceptable for the life of the first core. Staff acceptance is also based on the fact that the proposed purge time and expected coolant activity levels are within the range considered in a previous staff safety evaluation (NUREG-0712), and the Technical Specifications include provisions for coping with levels of radioactivity in the primary coolant that are higher than expected.

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Therefore, in accordance with the SRP requirement that purge time should be minimized, we are granting the requested change for the life of the first core, i.e., until the third refueling outage. The licensees have agreed that their request can be limited to this period of time.

Contact With State Official

By copy of a letter dated January 30, 1984 to the licensees, the NRC staff advised the Chief of the Radiological Health Branch, State Department of Health Services, State of California, of its proposed determination of no significant hazards consideration. No comments were received.

Environmental Consideration

We have determined that these amendments do not authorize a change in effluent types or total amount nor an increase in power level and will not result in any significant environmental impact. Having made this determination, we have further concluded that these amendments involve action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact and pursuant 10 CFR Section 51.5(d) (4), that an environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

Conclusion

Based upon our evaluation of the proposed changes to the San Onofre, Unit 3 Technical Specifications, we have concluded that: there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or the health and safety of the public. We, therefore, conclude that the proposed changes are acceptable, but are limiting the change to the time period from now until the third refueling outage. By letter dated February 16, 1984, the licensees agreed that this limiting of the change is acceptable.

Dated: MAR 13 1984

  
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