

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONSOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANYSAN DIEGO GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANYSAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNIT NO. 1DOCKET NO. 50-206ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 55.45(b)(2)(iii) and 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2) to the Southern California Edison Company, (the licensee), for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit No. 1, located in San Diego County, California.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

Regulations included under 10 CFR 55.45(b)(2)(iii) require the licensee to submit Form NRC-474, "Simulation Facility Certification," by March 26, 1991. Regulations included under 10 CFR 55.59(a)(2) require the licensee to conduct operator requalification examinations annually. By letter dated November 2, 1990, the licensee requested an extension for the submission date of Form NRC-474 from March 26, 1991, to no later than February 5, 1992. In the same letter a request was made to authorize a one-time extension of the operator requalification interval from 1 year to 18 months.

The proposed action is in accordance with 10 CFR 50.12 and 55.11, "Specific Exemptions," and is based on the information provided to the NRC in the licensee's request.

The Need for the Proposed Action

In 1987, 10 CFR 55.45 was revised to require operators to complete practical examinations on a certified plant reference simulator (PRS) or on an NRC-approved simulator. The licensee submitted a proposal in May 1988 to modify an existing simulator to comply with the revised requirements. In 1989 after interface with the NRC, the licensee concluded that it was not practical to modify the existing simulator to meet regulatory requirements and initiated plans to fabricate and install a PRS at the San Onofre site. Due to lead times associated with the development of the PRS, the two extensions identified above were requested.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed action will have no incremental environmental impact relative to current practices. The request to delay submission of the simulator certification is primarily a delay in fulfilling an administrative requirement and has no impact on the environment. A one-time extension of the operator requalification interval from 1 year to 18 months is not likely to have any effect on the environment.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded that the environmental effects of the proposed action are not significant, any alternative with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impacts attributed to this facility.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the "Final Environmental Statement related to operation of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station."

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The Commission's staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated November 2, 1990, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Main Library, University of California, P.O. Box 19557, Irvine, California 92713.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of March 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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