

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONSOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANYDOCKET NO. 50-206NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO  
PROVISIONAL OPERATING LICENSE AND PROPOSED NO SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS  
CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Provisional Operating License No. DPR-13, issued to Southern California Edison Company (the licensee), for operation of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit 1 located in San Diego County, California.

The amendment would add a license condition to revise the implementation schedule for the post-accident sampling system (PASS) (TMI item II.B.3) in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated September 20, 1984, as supported by letter dated August 14, 1984.

The PASS is being installed to provide capability to obtain and analyze reactor coolant and containment atmosphere samples during and following an accident in which there is core degradation. This information would be used to assess the severity of core damage. Installation of such a sampling system is a new requirement described in NUREG-0737, TMI Action Plan.

By letter dated March 14, 1983, the NRC issued an order confirming licensee commitments on certain TMI action plan items. The date established for the PASS was prior to startup from the outage that began February 27, 1982 for most of the system except that the undiluted sample facility and the oxygen analyzer were to be completed by the end of the following refueling outage (Cycle IX). The proposed license condition would specify that the PASS be implemented by July 1, 1986 or by the end of the Cycle IX outage, whichever is earlier. The

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By November 21, 1984, 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 petition for leave to intervene. Request for a hearing and petitions 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. 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 a 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

licensee also proposes to pursue an earlier completion schedule. Until the PASS is implemented, the licensee shall maintain the compensatory measures described in the August 14, 1984 submittal.

By January 7, 1985, the undiluted grab sample facility including necessary procedures will be completed such that a sample of reactor coolant could be obtained for analysis even if the core were severely damaged. This completion date is considerably earlier than that established by the confirmatory order for this feature. A core damage assessment procedure using the alternate methods, described in the August 14, 1984 letter, including the undiluted sample, will be provided prior to return to service.

As discussed in the August 14, 1984 letter, the actual hardware modifications for PASS should be complete by Spring 1985, to be followed by system startup testing and training. Thus, if the preoperational problems that occurred during installation of similar PASS systems for San Onofre Unit 2 and 3 do not occur, the PASS should be fully operational by the end of 1985. As a contingency based on past experience, a schedule with a longer deadline is proposed, although, the licensee proposes to pursue an earlier completion.

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.

First Standard

The function of the PASS is to provide information on plant conditions following accidents resulting in core degradation. Core damage assessment methods using alternate equipment such as containment hydrogen and radiation monitors recently installed to meet other TMI Action Plan requirements, and improved operator training, also a TMI Action Plan requirement, will provide reasonable assurance that plant status, including the extent of core damage, is properly assessed. As noted above, by January 1985, the capability to draw reactor coolant samples for analysis will be provided. This feature will be provided much sooner than was originally established in the order.

The requested change in implementation schedule, therefore, will not significantly affect the probability or consequences of any accident previously evaluated since adequate information of core conditions will be available for plant operators.

Second Standard

The requested action establishes an implementation schedule and interim measures until completion of a new system which would only be used for monitoring purposes after an accident resulting in possible core damage has already occurred. The alternate methods to be used until the PASS is implemented do not require any actions not already envisioned as part of the system design since these are the measures that would be used if some element of the PASS were out of service after the system is installed. The undiluted grab sample

is part of the PASS as approved by the staff and use of the other instrumentation does not require any new kind of plant operations. Therefore, the requested action does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated.

### Third Standard

The PASS will be implemented in stages over the next plant cycle. Some features will be complete on an earlier schedule than originally established. Alternate methods of accomplishing the PASS function are provided for the interim until the system is fully implemented. Although the detailed results of the grab sample will not be available as quickly as will be possible with the on-line features of PASS, the alternate methods will provide a timely estimation of relative degree of core damage such that appropriate operator actions can be taken.

Therefore, the request to revise the implementation schedule for the PASS does not result in a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

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. The Commission will not normally make a final determination unless it receives a request for a hearing.

Comments should be addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, Attn: Docketing and Service Branch.

may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to fifteen (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 fifteen (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, and the bases for each contention set forth with reasonable specificity. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. 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 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 involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

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 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.

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, D. C. 20555, Attn: Docketing and Service Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last ten (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 (800) 325-6000 (in Missouri (800) 342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number 3737 and the following message addressed to W. A. Paulson: 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 Executive Legal Director, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

Washington, D. C. 20555, and to Charles R. Kocher, Assistant General Counsel, James Beoletto, Esquire; Southern California Edison Company, Post Office Box 800, Rosemead, California 91770, attorney for the licensee.

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 Atomic Safety and Licensing Board designated to rule on the petition and/or request, that the petitioner has made a substantial showing of good cause for the granting of a late petition and/or request. That determination will be 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 September 20, 1984 which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., and at the San Clemente Branch Library, 242 Avenida Del Mar, San Clemente, California 92672.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 16 day of October 1984.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*Walter A. Paulson*

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