

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

Docket No. 50-206

MAY 15 1980

Mr. R. Dietch
 Vice President
 Nuclear Engineering and Operations
 Southern California Edison Company
 2244 Walnut Grove Avenue
 Post Office Box 800
 Rosemead, California 91770

Dear Mr. Dietch:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 47 to Provisional Operating License No. DPR-13 for the San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station Unit No. 1. The amendment deletes Subsection 3.1.2.a(1)C.2, "Settling Plates", from the Appendix B Environmental Technical Specifications (ETS) in response to your request dated May 7, 1979.

Specification 3.1.2.a(1)C.2 requires that settling plates be installed at two separate locations; one near the discharge area and one in a suitable control location. Backup stations are also to be placed close to the original stations to guard against loss of data due to vandalism. The purpose of the settling plate program is to supplement the regular benthic diving program during periods when diving is not feasible.

The settling plate program was started in 1975 but has provided little useful information because of lack of retrieval of the plates. Repeated damage and loss of sampling stations has occurred despite the use of a backup system. You have documented, in your May 7, 1979 submittal, seven occurrences over the four year study period when the plates were damaged or destroyed such that no data could be obtained.

You have demonstrated during the past four years that an adequate assessment can be made of the natural substrates by using the the visual methods that are required in the benthic diving survey [ETS 3.1.2.a(1)C.1]. Our review of your 1977 Annual Operating Reports verifies that the visual surveys and photographs of the diving surveys are adequate.

Based on the above, we have determined that use of the settling plates is not an essential biological program element and that the diving study required in the ETS provides an adequate assessment of the benthic organisms. Therefore, we conclude that deletion of ETS subsection 3.1.2.a(1)C.2, "Settling Plates", is acceptable.

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We have evaluated the potential for environmental impact of plant operation in accordance with the enclosed amendment. The amendment involves only the deletion of a non-essential element of biological studies of benthic organisms. Therefore, we have determined that the amendment does not authorize a change in effluent types or an increase in power level, and will not result in any environmental impact. Having made this determination, we have further concluded that the amendment involves an action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact and pursuant to 10 CFR §51.5(d)(4) that an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

Since the amendment only deletes a non-essential element of biological studies of benthic organisms, and is environmentally insignificant, it does not involve significant new safety information of a type not considered by a previous Commission safety review of the facility. It does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident, does not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, and therefore does not involve a significant hazards consideration. We have also concluded that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by this action and that the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

A copy of the related Notice of Issuance is also enclosed.

Sincerely,
Original signed by
Dennis M. Crutchfield

Dennis M. Crutchfield, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #5
Division of Licensing

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 47 to DPR-13
2. Notice of Issuance

cc w/enclosures:

See next page

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