



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

May 16, 1980

Docket No. 50-206

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. 48 to Provisional Operating License No. DPR-13 for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Unit No. 1. The amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications in response to your request (Proposed Change No. 81), dated October 2, 1979.

The amendment exempts the continuous temperature recording portion of the ocean thermal monitoring program in the Appendix B Environmental Technical Specifications (ETS), Section 3.1.1.a(5) from the non-routine reporting requirements in ETS Section 5.6.3.b(3)(a); reduces, for reporting purposes, the data retrieval rate for the temperature recording system from 98 to 80 percent; and requires failures to achieve the 80 percent data retrieval rate to be reported in the Annual Operating Report.

The purpose of the thermal measurements program is to provide temperature data for defining the thermal discharge plume for use in determining if the facility has a significant effect on the marine environment.

You have indicated that an act of vandalism or an incident of equipment loss due to a large storm could reduce the data retrieval rate below the presently reportable equivalent level of 98 percent in ETS 5.6.3.b(3)(d), and that several such occurrences have required numerous non-routine reports to be submitted to the NRC explaining past temperature losses.

We have reviewed your proposal to reduce the data retrieval rate from 98 to 80 percent; to exempt the temperature recording system from the requirement of non-routine reporting to the NRC, whenever the reliability factor cannot be met, instead to report all data losses, resulting in less than 80 percent retrieval, in the Annual Operating Report. We find that: (1) the proposed change will not affect the monitoring methods nor will it reduce the rate at which temperature data will be collected; (2) temperature data, collected during the four years data collection period, represent an adequate base for determining the effect of the thermal discharge plume; and (3) no significant environmental impacts have been shown in the past four Annual Operating Reports.

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- 2 -

May 16, 1980


Based on the above, we conclude that the changes to the Technical Specifications are acceptable as proposed.

We have evaluated the potential for environmental impact of plant operation in accordance with the enclosed amendment. The amendment applies only to reporting requirements for the thermal measurements program. 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 changes the reporting requirements for the thermal measurements program, it is administrative in nature, and 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,


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

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 48
to DPR-13
2. Notice of Issuance

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

May 16, 1980

cc w/enclosures:

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*With copy of incoming dated 10/2/79