



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 77 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-10  
AND AMENDMENT NO. 65 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-15

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY

SAN DIEGO GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

THE CITY OF ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3

DOCKET NOS. 50-361 AND 50-362

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letters dated May 25, 1988, and April 4, 1989, Southern California Edison Company (SCE), et al. (the licensees), requested to change the Technical Specifications for Facility Operating Licenses No. NPF-10 and No. NPF-15 that authorize operation of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), Units 2 and 3 in San Diego County, California. This request, designated as PCN-221, would revise Technical Specification 3/4.6.1.7, "Containment Ventilation System," to permit blind flanging the 8-inch and 42-inch containment purge supply and exhaust lines in lieu of sealing closed the isolation valves and to revise the allowable duration that the 8-inch containment purge supply and exhaust isolation valves may be open. The proposed technical specification would permit the 8-inch valves to be open as required for containment pressure control, for ALARA and respirable air quality considerations for personnel entry, and for surveillance tests that require the valve to be open. It would also separate the action statements for the 42-inch and 8-inch valves should the proposed Limiting Conditions for Operation not be met. The proposed action statements and surveillance requirements would (1) include the option to blind flange both the 8-inch and the 42-inch valves as a method to seal closed the valves, (2) increase the action statement time for sealing closed the valves from 1 hour to 4 hours, (3) delete the Unit 3 limit of 3000 hours per 365 days (prior to the third refueling outage) allowable open time for the 8-inch valves, and (4) would require only those 42-inch valves that are not blind flanged to be verified sealed closed at least once per 31 days.

## 2.0 DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION

The licensees' proposal would allow the 42-inch and 8-inch containment purge supply and exhaust lines to be blind flanged in lieu of sealing closed the isolation valves. The staff considers a blind flange to be an acceptable isolation barrier in lieu of an isolation valve if it is testable. The licensees, however, have proposed wording which would exempt blind flanges from Surveillance Requirement (SR) 4.6.1.7.1 which requires all 42-inch valves to be verified sealed closed at least once per 31 days. SCE states that SR 4.6.1.1.a, which requires certain penetrations (including the purge supply and exhaust lines) to be verified closed at least once per 31 days, covers the situation in which containment purge supply and exhaust isolation valves are blind flanged. To clarify these requirements and to prevent the possibility of misunderstanding, the staff has proposed, and SCE has agreed, to modify the wording in SR 4.6.1.7.1 to include blind flanges and to reference SR 4.6.1.1.a. This change is therefore acceptable.

The licensees' proposal to remove the 3000 hours per 365 day limitation on the allowable open time for the Unit 3 8-inch valves prior to the third refueling outage is acceptable since this outage has been completed and the limitation is no longer in effect.

The proposed technical specification would remove the 1000 hours per 365 days limitation on allowable open time for the 8-inch valves. It would permit these valves to be open as required for containment pressure control, for ALARA and respirable air quality considerations for personnel entry, and for surveillance tests that require the valve to be open; it would also include the statement that the valves "shall be closed to the maximum extent practicable." This change would limit the opening of the 8-inch valves to safety-related functions only, would allow flexibility in opening the valves for those required functions, and would clearly indicate the intent that the valves not be open any longer than is required for those purposes. Therefore, the proposed change is acceptable.

The licensees' proposal to increase the allowable time for sealing closed the valves from 1 hour to 4 hours is consistent with the Combustion Engineering Standard Technical Specifications (STS) and with the current staff position. Therefore, this change is acceptable.

The proposed change adds the requirement to leak test each blind flange. This is consistent with the staff position, described above, which allows the use of blind flanges as long as they are subject to the same leak testing requirements as the sealed closed valves. Therefore, this change is acceptable.

## 3.0 SUMMARY

The proposed changes meet the requirements of Standard Review Plan Section 6.2.4 and follow the staff's guidelines. They will provide limitations

on the allowable reasons for purging containment, and they will allow more operational flexibility within those limitations. Therefore, the proposed amendment is acceptable, with the modification to the wording of SR 4.6.1.7.1 described above.

#### 4.0 CONTACT WITH STATE OFFICIAL

The NRC staff has advised the Chief of the Radiological Health Branch, State Department of Health Services, State of California, of the proposed determination of no significant hazards consideration. No comments were received.

#### 5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.21, 51.32, and 51.35, an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact has been prepared and published in the Federal Register on August 16, 1989 (54 FR 33787). Accordingly, based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission has determined that the issuance of these amendments will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

#### 6.0 CONCLUSION

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that:

- (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner,
- (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and
- (3) the issuance of the amendments will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

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Date: October 4, 1989