

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONSOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY, ET AL.DOCKET NOS. 50-361 AND 50-362SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating Licenses No. NPF-10 and No. NPF-15 issued to Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, the City of Riverside, California and the City of Anaheim, California (the licensees), for operation of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3, located in San Diego County, California.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendments would revise Technical Specification 3/4.1.3.4, "CEA Drop Time" and its associated Bases, to use both an arithmetic average control element assembly (CEA) drop time and a maximum individual CEA drop time. The maximum individual CEA drop time restriction would be used to limit the CEA drop time distribution from the arithmetic average.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed amendments are required to allow effective use of the new CEA Drop Time Test software methodology in use at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 2 and 3. In order to preclude a delayed entry into Mode 2 (Startup) following testing using the new methodology, the proposed amendments would allow an increase in the margin between the Technical Specification limit and the measured values derived from the new methodology.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would not involve a significant change in the probability or consequences of any accident previously evaluated, nor does it involve a new or different kind of accident. Consequently, any radiological releases resulting from an accident would not be significantly greater than previously determined. The proposed amendments do not otherwise affect routine radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendments. The Commission also concludes that the proposed action will not result in a significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure.

With regard to nonradiological impacts, the proposed amendments do not affect nonradiological plant effluents and have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendments.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the Federal Register on September 7, 1989 (54 FR 37172). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in connection with the Final Environmental Statement related to operation of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3, dated April 1981 and its Errata dated June 1981.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensees' request that supports the proposed amendments. The NRC staff 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 amendments.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes 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 application for amendments dated July 31, 1989 which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street NW., Washington, DC 20555, and at the General Library, University of California, P.O. Box 19557, Irvine, California 92713.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of October, 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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