

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

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License 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, Unit 3, located in San Diego County, California.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would revise Technical Specification 3/4.7.6, "Snubbers." Surveillance Requirement 4.7.6.b requires a visual inspection of all snubbers on a regular basis. The interval for visual inspections is decreased as a function of the number of inoperable snubbers discovered. With no inoperable snubbers found, a maximum interval of 18 months plus or minus 25% is allowed. With one inoperable snubber per inspection period, the interval is 12 months plus or minus 25%. The proposed change would allow a one-time extension of the 12 month interval to 20 months plus or minus 25%, for the case where one inoperable snubber was found.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment is required to prevent unnecessary unit shutdown. Performance of these inaccessible snubber inspections would require unit

shutdown due to their location in high radiation zones and the need to erect ladders or scaffolding for inspection.

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 amendment does not otherwise affect routine radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment. 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 amendment does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment and Opportunity for Hearing in connection with this action was published in the Federal Register on September 7, 1989 (54 FR 37171). 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 amendment. The NRC staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

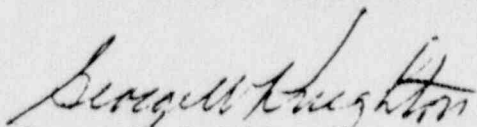
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed amendment.

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 amendment dated July 26, 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 16 day of November 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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