

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT APPRAISAL BY THE DIVISION OF LICENSING
SUPPORTING EXTENSION OF CONSTRUCTION PERMITS
NO. CPPR-97 AND CPPR-98
SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION,
UNIT NOS 2 AND 3

Description of Proposed Action

By letter of March 16, 1981, the Southern California Edison Company (SCE), filed a request with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to extend the completion dates specified in Construction Permits No. CPPR-97 and CPPR-98 for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 2 and 3 (SONGS 2 & 3). The action proposed is the issuance of an order providing for an extension of the latest completion dates of the construction permits from April 15, 1981 to and including October 15, 1981 for Unit 2 and from June 15, 1982 to November 15, 1982 for Unit 3. The NRC staff has reviewed the application and found that good cause has been shown for the requested extension of the completion dates specified in Construction Permits CPPR-97 and CPPR-98 for SONGS 2 & 3 (see attached Safety Evaluation by the NRC staff).

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action

A. Need for the Facility

The SONGS 2 & 3 are now undergoing NRC staff review pursuant to application for operating license. As part of the operating licensing review of these plants the staff has closely followed the applicants' need for generating capacity. Examination of the most recent information regarding loads and resources indicates that the conclusion reached in the Final Environmental Statement, Construction Permit Stage (FES-CP), published in March 1973 regarding need for this plant is still valid.

The overall staff's conclusion that the plant should be constructed is unaffected by the extension of the construction permit.

- B. The FES-CP for SONGS 2 & 3 includes an assessment of potential environmental, economic, and community impacts due to site preparation and plant construction. In addition, (1) the staff's review of the inspection reports prepared by the Office of Inspection and Enforcement as a result of periodic inspection visits to the SONGS 2 & 3 site, and (2) staff's discussions with individuals and local and state officials held at the time of operating licensing review of the units did not identify any adverse impacts on the environment or the surrounding community which were not anticipated and adequately discussed in the FES-CP or which were significantly greater than those discussed in the FES-CP.

C. Assessment of Impacts

The only effects possibly resulting from the requested extension would be those due to transposing the impacts in time or extending the total time the local community is subjected to temporary construction impacts. This in the staff's view will not result in any significant additional impact. The staff concludes that environmental impacts associated with construction of the plant described in the FES-CP and the Environmental Impact Appraisal supporting the extension of Construction Permits Nos. CPPR-97 and CPPR-98, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 2 and 3 dated August 5, 1980, are not affected by the proposed extension. Thus, no significant change in impact is expected to result from the extension.

Conclusion and Basis for Negative Declaration

On the basis of the foregoing analysis and the NRC staff evaluation, it is concluded that the impacts attributable to the proposed action will be confined to those already predicted and described in the Commission's FES-CP issued in 1973 and the Environmental Impact Appraisals issued August 5, 1981. Having made this conclusion, the Commission has further concluded that no environmental impact statement for the proposed action need be prepared, and that a negative declaration to this effect is appropriate.

Dated: MAY 13 1981