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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3
DOCKET NOS. 50-361 AND 50-362
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of a one-time exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55 to the Southern California Edison Company and the San Diego Gas and Electric Company (the licensees), for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3, located in San Diego County, California.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action

The exemption would grant relief from the requirements of 10 CFR 55.59 (a) and (c) which require licensed operators to complete a requalification program that does not exceed 24 months in duration. The licensees are requesting a one-time extension of the program duration from 24 to 25 months. The licensees' request for exemption is contained in a letter dated November 5, 1991.

The Need for the Proposed Action

In an effort to align the San Onofre licensed operator examination schedule with the NRC National Examination Schedule, the licensees propose to change the end date of the current requalification program from December 1991 to January 1992. This proposed change will extend the current requalification cycle to 25 months. The scheduler realignment will decrease the administrative burdens associated with the requalification examinations.

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Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would align the San Onofre Units 2 and 3 operator requalification schedule with the NRC National Examination Schedule. This exemption will not increase the risk of facility accidents. Thus, post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined, nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect the quantity of radiological plant effluent, nor result in any increase in occupational exposure. Likewise, the exemption does not affect nonradiological plant effluent and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological or nonradiological impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Because it has been concluded that there is no measurable impact associated with the proposed exemption, any alternatives to the exemption will have either no environmental impact or greater environmental impact. Since the Commission has concluded that the environmental effects of the proposed action are not significant, any alternative with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative to the exemption would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce environmental impacts attributable to this facility and would result in reduced operational flexibility.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement dated April 1981, related to the operation of San Onofre Units 2 and 3.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The Commission's staff reviewed the exemption request and did not consult with other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption. Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the staff 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 request for exemption dated November 5, 1991 which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555 and at the Main Library, University of California, P.O. Box 19557, Irvine, California 92713.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of December, 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Theodore R. Quay

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