



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 18, 1997

50-361
50-362

Mr. Dwight E. Nunn
Vice President
Southern California Edison Company
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
P. O. Box 128
San Clemente, California 92674-0128

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF PROPOSED TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION APPLICATION
ON AN EXIGENT BASIS

Dear Mr. Nunn:

The staff received an undated letter from you on April 17, 1997, requesting that the NRC review on an exigent basis a proposed change to Technical Specification (TS) 3.8.1, "AC Sources - Operating." The proposed change would permit the unit auxiliary transformer for one unit to be credited as the alternate offsite power source required by TS 3.8.1 for the opposite unit without either performing an actual transfer of the safety-related buses while the affected unit is operating, or declaring the affected unit's alternate offsite power source inoperable.

Part 50.91 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR), "Notice for public comment; State consultation," outlines the procedures and requirements the Commission follows for an application requesting an amendment to an operating license. The preferred method of processing such amendment requests (when a proposed determination that no significant hazards consideration is made) is to publish in the Federal Register an individual notice of proposed action for an amendment and allow a 30-day public comment period. When the Commission finds that exigent circumstances exist, in that a licensee and the Commission must act quickly and that time does not permit the Commission to publish a Federal Register notice allowing 30 days for prior public comment, and it also determines that the amendment involves no significant hazards considerations, 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6) allows the staff to utilize shorter periods of time for public comment. However, 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6)(iv) requires the licensee to explain the exigency and why the licensee cannot avoid it. This section further states that the Commission will use the normal public notice and comment procedures if it determines that the licensee has failed to use its best efforts to make a timely application for the amendment.

The staff notes that Southern California Edison personnel became aware of this issue and the need to modify the TS to allow use of the unit auxiliary transformer as an alternate source of offsite power, on January 16, 1997. Your April 15, 1997, letter does not provide any explanation as to why it took three months to submit a TS amendment for the staff's review, nor does your letter explain the need for exigent action. Therefore, the staff does not plan to review on an exigent basis your proposed TS application unless the information required by 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6)(iv) is provided on the docket.

DFOI/b

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Mr. Dwight E. Nunn

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April 18, 1997

If you have any questions on the staff's actions regarding this matter, you can contact me at (301) 415-1372.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

William H. Bateman, Project Director
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-361
and 50-362

cc: See next page

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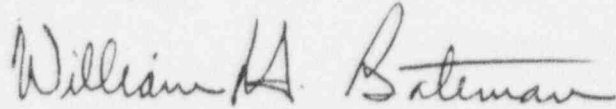
Mr. Dwight E. Nunn

- 2 -

April 18, 1997

If you have any questions on the staff's actions regarding this matter, you can contact me at (301) 415-1372.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William H. Bateman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

William H. Bateman, Project Director
Project Directorate IV-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-361
and 50-362

cc: See next page

April 18, 1997

cc:

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