

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONSOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY, ET AL.DOCKET NOS. 50-361 AND 50-362NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENTS TO  
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-10 and NPF-15 issued to Southern California Edison Company (SCE), 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, (SONGS) Units 2 and 3 located in San Diego County, California. The request for amendment was submitted by letter dated June 14, 1988 and identified by the licensee as Proposed Change PCN-263.

The proposed change would revise Technical Specification 3/4.1.3.4 "CEA Drop Time" to increase the allowable drop time from 3.0 to 3.2 seconds. The purpose of Technical Specification (TS) 3/4.1.2.4 is to ensure that the actual drop times for full length Control Element Assemblies (CEAs) are consistent with the maximum drop time assumed in the accident and transient analyses.

Prior to SONGS Unit 2 Cycle 4 startup, CEA drop times were measured individually. Beginning with Unit 2 Cycle 4 startup, a new method of measuring CEA drop times was used. This method initiates a Core Protection Calculator (CPC) trip and simultaneously monitors the positions of all 91 CEAs as a function of time. In this method, the reactor trip breakers are the point at which power is interrupted to the CEA gripper coils, rather than the individual breakers as in the previous method.

The CEA drop times measured using the new method during Unit 2 startup were unexpectedly longer than those measured using the previous method. Although no CEAs failed to meet the 3.0 second drop time requirement, some CEAs were close to the limit. Drop times for the five slowest CEAs were remeasured using the previous method which confirmed that there was no degradation in CEA performance compared with previous tests. Since the new method uses the reactor trip breakers to interrupt power to the CEAs, it more accurately reflects the operation of the reactor protection system as assumed in the safety analysis.

The new test method will be used for CEA drop time measurements during SONGS Unit 3 Cycle 4 startup. A recent review of past Unit 3 CEA drop time measurements revealed that there is the potential for one CEA to fail to meet the 3.0 second requirement. The proposed change would increase the allowable drop time to 3.2 seconds. The effect of the proposed change on the accident and transient analyses is addressed in the licensee's June 14, 1988 submittal.

Before issuance of the proposed license amendments, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's regulations.

By August 8, 1988, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendments to the subject facility operating license, and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for hearing and petition for leave to intervene. Request for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene must be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed

by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel will rule on the request and/or petition, and the Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR 2.714, a petition for leave to intervene must set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter, and the bases for each contention set forth with reasonable specificity. Contentions shall be limited to matters

within the scope of the amendments under consideration. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last ten (10) days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner or representative promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1-800-325-6000 (in Missouri 1-800-342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number 3737 and the following message addressed to George W. Knighton: petitioner's name and telephone number; date petition was mailed; plant name; and publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, and to Mr. Charles R. Kocher, Esq., Southern California Edison Company, 2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, P.O. Box 800, Rosemead, California 91770 and Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe, Attn: David R. Pigott, Esq., 600 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California 94111, attorneys for the licensees.

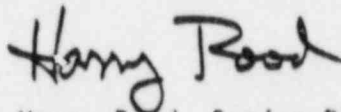
Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer, or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

If a request for hearing is received, the Commission's staff may issue the amendment after it completes its technical review and prior to the completion of any required hearing if it publishes a further notice for public comment of its proposed finding of no significant hazards consideration in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91 and 50.92.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendments dated June 14, 1988 which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the General Library, University of California at Irvine, Irvine, California 92713.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 29th day of June , 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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