

in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition must 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 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 15 days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene that must include a list of the contentions that the petitioner seeks to have litigated in the hearing. Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the bases of the contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or expert opinion that support the contention and on which the petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the petitioner is aware and on which the petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. The petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendments under consideration. The contention must be one that, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement that 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.

Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, by the above date. A copy of the petition

should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, and to Mary O'Reilly, Attorney, FirstEnergy Legal Department, FirstEnergy Corporation, 76 S. Main Street, Akron, OH 44308, attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for a 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 a hearing is received, the Commission's staff may issue the amendments 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 January 18, 2001 (ADAMS Accession No. ML010230096), as supplemented by letters dated February 20 (ADAMS Accession No. ML010540305) and April 12, 2001 (ADAMS Accession No. ML011130105), which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>). If there are problems accessing the document located in ADAMS, contact the PDB Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or send an e-mail to [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of May 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Lawrence J. Burkhardt,**

*Project Manager, Section 1, Project Directorate I, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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**BILLING CODE 7590-01-P**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362]

### **Southern California Edison; San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 2 and 3; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating Licenses Nos. NPF-10 and NPF-15, issued to Southern California Edison Company (SCE or the licensee), for operation of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), Units Nos. 2 and 3, located in San Diego County, California.

#### **Environmental Assessment**

##### *Identification of Proposed Action*

The proposed action would amend the facility license and the technical specifications for SONGS Units 2 and 3, to allow SCE to increase the maximum reactor core power level for each unit from 3390 megawatts thermal (MWt) to 3448 MWt, which is an increase of 1.42 percent of rated core thermal power for SONGS Units 2 and 3.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated April 3, 2001, and supplemented April 23, May 11, May 25, and May 31, 2001.

##### *The Need for the Proposed Action*

The proposed action would permit an increase in the licensed core thermal power from 3390 MWt to 3448 MWt and is needed to allow an increase in the net electrical output of SONGS Units 2 and 3 and, thus, provide additional electrical power to service domestic and commercial areas of the licensee's grid.

##### *Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

In support of its request for the proposed power uprate, SCE evaluated the radiological effects of the proposed action, and specifically evaluated its radioactive waste management systems including system/component activity inventories and activity releases associated with the liquid, gaseous, and solid waste management systems, as well as the process and effluent radiological monitoring and sampling systems. In addition, SCE evaluated the non-radiological effects of the proposed action. Based on its review of the licensee's evaluation of the environmental impacts, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed increase in power would not result in a significant

environmental impact as discussed below.

#### *Radiological Environmental Assessment*

##### Radioactive Waste (Radwaste) Management

SCE has evaluated the system/component activity inventories and activity releases associated with the liquid, gaseous, and solid waste management systems, as well as the process and effluent radiological monitoring and sampling systems. SONGS radwaste management and radiation protection analyses are based on the Units 2 and 3 Cycle 1 core activity inventory profile with one percent fuel cladding defects. The licensee has determined that the activity inventories of Cycle 1 core isotopes (primarily some iodine and noble gas isotopes) are greater than the core activity inventories associated with 102 percent of current licensed power, i.e., 3458 MWt. The licensee has also evaluated the dose contributions of iodine, noble gas, and particulate core isotopes for the power uprate conditions. Based on its evaluation, the licensee determined that the core and system activity profiles of record bound (i.e., are equal to, or more severe than) the core and system activity source terms at the proposed uprated power level. Therefore, the licensee has concluded that its operation of the radwaste systems at SONGS Units 2 and 3 will not be impacted by operation at uprated power conditions and the effluents discharged would continue to meet the requirements of 10 CFR part 20 and 10 CFR part 50, Appendix I. Based on the above, the staff has determined that the proposed power uprate will not appreciably affect the ability to process liquid or gaseous radioactive effluents and there are no significant environmental effects from radiological releases.

##### Dose Consideration

SCE evaluated the effects of power uprate on the radiation sources within the plant and radiation levels during normal and post-accident conditions. Based on its evaluation, the licensee determined that SONGS Units 2 and 3 dose contributions and the activity inventories of Cycle 1 core isotopes (primarily some iodine and noble gas isotopes) are greater than the dose consequences and core activity inventories associated with the 102 percent of the current licensed power, i.e., 3458 MWt, and therefore bound the proposed uprated power level. Further occupational doses for normal operations will be maintained within

acceptable limits by the site's as-low-as-reasonably-achievable program, which is required by 10 CFR 20.1101(b).

Therefore, the NRC staff concludes that the radiological doses would remain below the 10 CFR part 100 guidelines and all radiological safety margins are maintained.

##### Summary

The proposed power uprate will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, will not involve any new radiological release pathways, will not result in a significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure, and will not result in significant additional fuel cycle environmental impacts. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

##### *Non-Radiological Environmental Assessment*

The licensee reviewed the non-radiological environmental impacts of the requested power uprate based on information submitted in the Environmental Report, Operating License Stage, the NRC Final Environmental Statement (FES) related to the operation of San Onofre Nuclear Station, Units 2 and 3, (NUREG-0490, dated April 1981), and the requirements of the Environmental Protection Plan. Based on this review, the licensee concluded that the proposed power uprate would have no significant effect on the non-radiological elements of concern and the plant will be operated in an environmentally acceptable manner as established by the FES. In addition, the licensee states that existing Federal, State, and local regulatory permits presently in effect accommodate the power uprate without modification.

The SONGS units are cooled by once-through cooling water systems, withdrawing cooling water from the Pacific Ocean and discharging it to the ocean through separate underwater diffusers on the ocean bottom. The licensee determined that the differential temperature developed by the cooling system will increase by approximately 0.3°F, increasing the calculated differential to approximately 19.2 °F. The limit on differential temperature allowed by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, is 25 °F and includes an allowance of 0.4 °F for increases in thermal power level. The licensee also evaluated other environmental discharges and determined that the small increase in reactor power will not

have significant impact on the environment.

SONGS operates in compliance with a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, which requires all effluents to be closely monitored to assure compliance with the permit levels. Effluent increases due to the power uprate of SONGS Units 2 and 3 are not expected. With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action would not change the method of operation at SONGS or the methods of handling effluents. No changes to land use would result and the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. Therefore, no new or different types of non-radiological environmental impacts are expected. Accordingly, the NRC staff concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

##### *Alternatives to the Proposed Action*

As an alternative to the proposed action, the NRC staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

##### *Alternative Use of Resources*

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the FES for SONGS Units 2 and 3 dated March 1973.

##### *Agencies and Persons Consulted*

In accordance with its stated policy, on June 7, 2001, the NRC staff consulted with the California State official, Mr. Steve Hsu, of the Radiologic Health Branch of the State Department of Health Services, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

##### **Finding of No Significant Impact**

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC staff concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated April 3, 2001, and the supplements dated April 23, May 11, May 25, and May 31, 2001, which may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555

Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov>, (the Electronic Reading Room). If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to [pdr@nrc.gov](mailto:pdr@nrc.gov).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 13th day of June 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Joseph E. Donoghue,**

*Senior Project Manager, Project Directorate IV, Section 2, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Discrimination Task Group; Notice of Meetings

In August 2000, the NRC announced the formation of a Discrimination Task Group, which is evaluating the NRC processes used in the handling of discrimination allegations and violations of employee protection standards (Applicable regulations include 10 CFR 30.7, 10 CFR 40.7, 10 CFR 50.7, 10 CFR 60.9, 10 CFR 61.9, 10 CFR 70.7, 10 CFR 76.7, 10 CFR 72.10, 10 CFR 150.20). The group is a management-level review group which is evaluating the Commission's handling of discrimination cases.

The group has developed draft recommendations for changes to the regulatory requirements, the enforcement policy or other agency guidelines as appropriate. The draft recommendations have been released for public comment and can be obtained via the Office of Enforcement web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/OE/>. Following a public comment period on the draft that expires on August 17, 2001, the Task Group will develop a Commission Paper outlining the final recommendations for NRC offices to consider in making changes to their processes.

The Task Group is holding several public stakeholder meetings in various areas of the country to solicit comment on the draft recommendations for changes in the Agency's handling of discrimination issues.

—A public meeting will be held in Chattanooga, TN, on June 25, 2001, at the USNRC Technical Training

Center, Osborne Office Center, 5746 Marlin Road, Chattanooga TN 37411 This will be an evening meeting from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

—A public meeting will be held, on July 11, 2001, at the USNRC Region III offices located 801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532. This will be an evening meeting from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

—A public meeting will be held, on July 12, 2001, in Paducah, KY, at the Paducah Community College Engineering Building, Crounse Hall Main Lecture Hall, 4810 Alben Barkely Drive, Paducah, KY. This will be an evening meeting from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

—A public meeting will be held on August 9, 2001, at the San Luis Obispo Public Library, Library Conference Room, 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo CA. This will be an evening meeting from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

—A public meeting will be held on August 14, 2001, at the Waterford Town Hall, 15 Rope Ferry Road, Waterford, CT This will be an evening meeting from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

—A public meeting will be held on August 16, 2001, at the USNRC offices in the TWFN Auditorium, located at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m.

These meetings are open to the members of the public. Oral or written views regarding the NRC's draft recommendations for improving processes for handling employee protection issues may be presented by the members of the public, including members of the nuclear industry. Persons desiring to make prepared oral presentations or statements should notify Mr. Barry Westreich (Telephone 301/415-3456, e-mail [BCW@nrc.gov](mailto:BCW@nrc.gov)) five days prior to the meeting date, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made to allow necessary time during the meeting for such a presentation or statements. Use of still, motion picture, and television cameras as well as audio recording devices will be permitted during these meetings.

Further information regarding topics of discussion, whether the meeting has been canceled, rescheduled, or relocated; may be obtained via the Office of Enforcement web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/OE/> or by contacting Mr. Barry Westreich between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. EDT.

For those unable to attend one of the public meetings on this issue, comments on the draft report can be submitted via the Office of Enforcement web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/OE/> and may also be

submitted in writing addressed to Barry Westreich, Office of Enforcement, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD, 20852.

This meeting will not be transcribed but, if needed, a meeting report will be available electronically for public inspection on the Office of Enforcement web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/OE/> and in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room). The Task Group Charter and other pertinent documents related to Task Group Activities will also be periodically posted and updated on the Office of Enforcement web site.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 11th day of June 2001.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Frank Congel,**

*Director, Office of Enforcement.*

[FR Doc. 01-15372 Filed 6-18-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

### Public Workshop on Future Licensing Activities

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of public workshop.

**SUMMARY:** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has scheduled a public workshop to inform the public of the current and proposed activities of the NRC staff regarding future applications and to solicit public concerns and feedback on identified issues and challenges.

**DATES:** July 25, 2001, from 9 a.m.–8 p.m.; July 26, 2001, from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The workshop will be held in the NRC's Auditorium at Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Contact Eric Benner, Mail Stop O-12D1, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Members of the public may pre-register for this meeting by contacting Eric Benner at (800) 368-5642, ext. 1171, or by Internet at [ejb1@nrc.gov](mailto:ejb1@nrc.gov) by July 20, 2001.

The NRC maintains an Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) which provides text and image files of NRC's public documents. These documents may be accessed through the NRC's Public