98101–3212; State of Washington Department of Labor and Industries, 7273 Linderson Way, S.W., Tumwater, Washington 98501; and the Office of State Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Room N–3700, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20210.

4. Public Participation

Under 29 CFR 1953.2(c), the Assistant Secretary may prescribe alternative procedures to expedite the review process or for other good cause which may be consistent with applicable laws. The Assistant Secretary finds that good cause exists for not publishing the supplement to the Washington State Plan as a proposed change and making the Regional Administrator's approval effective upon publication for the following reasons:

1. The standard amendments are as effective as the Federal standards which were promulgated in accordance with the Federal law, including meeting requirements for public participation.

2. The standard amendments were adopted in accordance with the procedural requirements of State law and further public participation would be repetitious.

This decision is effective January 23, 1997.

(Sec. 18, Pub. L. 91–596, 84 STAT. 6108 [29 U.S.C. 667]).

Signed at Seattle, Washington, this 10th day of December 1996.

Richard S. Terrill,

Acting Regional Administrator.

[FR Doc. 97–1564 Filed 1–22–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–26–P

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (97–006)]

NASA Advisory Council, Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications Advisory Committee, Space Station Utilization Advisory Subcommittee; Meeting

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Public Law 92–463, as amended, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announces a forthcoming meeting of the NASA Advisory Council, Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications Advisory Committee, Space Station Utilization Advisory Subcommittee.

DATES: February 11, 1997, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; February 12, 1997, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; February 13, 1997, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Nassau Bay Hilton, 3000 NASA Road 1, Houston, TX.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Edmond M. Reeves, Code US, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC, 20546, 202/358–2560.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting will be open to the public up to the seating capacity of the room. Advance notice of attendance to the Executive Secretary is requested. the agenda for the meeting is as follows:

—Station program update
—Science and technology utilization plans and requirements
—Microgravity environment and vibration isolation
—Telescience requirements and communications capabilities
—Plans for the Office of Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications Advisory Committee reorganization
—Other topics related to the scientific, technologies, and commercial utilization of the Space Station may be included in the meeting discussions.

It is imperative that the meeting be held on these dates to accommodate the scheduling priorities of the key participants. Visitors will be requested to sign a visitor's register.

Dated: January 14, 1997.

Leslie M. Nolan,

Advisory Committee Management Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

[FR Doc. 97–1621 Filed 1–22–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7510–01–M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50–362]

Southern California Edison Company; Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License, Proposed no Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF–15 issued to Southern California Edison Company (the licensee) for operation of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), Unit No. 3 located in San Diego County, California.

The proposed amendment would replace Surveillance Requirements 3.8.1.14 and 3.8.1.15 until the SONGS Unit 3 Cycle 9 refueling outage (currently scheduled to begin on April 5, 1997), with surveillance requirements that were in force when these surveillances were last performed.

The exigent circumstances for this TS amendment request exist due to the recent discovery of the inappropriate crediting of previous test results to the post-Technical Specification Improvement Program SRs.

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

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6) for amendments to be granted under exigent circumstances, the NRC staff must determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. Under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration, which is presented below:

1. The proposed change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

The proposed change would temporarily replace Surveillance Requirements (SRs) SR 3.8.1.14 and 3.8.1.15 with the SRs that had existed for this testing in the Technical Specifications (TSs) prior to the Technical Specification Improvement Program (TSIP).

Operation of the facility would remain unchanged as a result of the proposed changes and no assumptions or results of any accident analyses are affected. Therefore, the proposed change will not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of any accident previously evaluated.

2. The proposed change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

The proposed change would temporarily replace Surveillance Requirements (SRs) SR 3.8.1.14 and 3.8.1.15 with the SRs that had existed for this testing in the previous (pre-TSIP) TS.

Operation of the facility would remain unchanged as a result of the proposed change. Therefore, the proposed change will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

3. The proposed change does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The proposed change would temporarily replace Surveillance Requirements (SRs) SR 3.8.1.14 and 3.8.1.15 with the SRs that had existed for this testing in the previous (pre-TSIP) TS. Acceptance of the pre-TSIP test, using higher generator output, would not deleteriously impact any margin of safety. The generator output of the Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG) is manually adjusted during the SRs by the operator conducting the test. Imposing the post-TSIP upper limit is less severe on the equipment since this ensures the generator output is at a lower level during the test. Similarly, operation of the facility would remain unchanged as a result of the proposed change. Therefore, the proposed change will not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

The Commission is seeking public comments on this proposed determination. Any comments received within 15 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 15-day notice period. However, should circumstances change during the notice period, such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the 15-day notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. Should the Commission take this action, it will publish in the Federal Register a notice of issuance. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, and should cite the publication date and page number of this Federal Register notice. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D22, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene is discussed below.

By February 24, 1997, the licensee may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment 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 a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's ''Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings'' in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.714 which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Main Library, University of California, P.O. Box 19557, Irvine, California 92713. 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 shall 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 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 which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter. 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 which 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. 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 amendment under consideration. The contention must be one which, if proven, would entitle the petitioner to relief. 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.

If the amendment is issued before the expiration of the 30-day hearing period, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. If a hearing is requested, the final determination will serve to decide when the hearing is held.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing held would take place after issuance of the amendment.

If the final determination is that the amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, any hearing held would take place before the issuance of any amendment.

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, DC 20555–0001, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last 10 days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1–(800) 248–5100 (in Missouri 1–(800) 342–6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number N1023 and the following message addressed to William H. Bateman, Director, Project Directorate IV–2: 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, DC 20555–0001, and to T.E. Oubre, Esquire, Southern California Edison Company, P.O. Box 800, Rosemead, California 91770, attorney for the licensee.

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).

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated January 13, 1997, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room, located at the Main Library, University of California, P.O. Box 19557, Irvine, California 92713.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of January 1997.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Mel B. Fields,

Project Manager, Project Directorate IV–2, Division of Reactor Projects III/IV, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 97–1611 Filed 1–22–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590–01–P

[Docket No. 50–286]

Power Authority of the State of New York; Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3; Environmental Assessment and Finding of no Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to an exemption from certain requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Paragraph III.D.3, Type C tests, to the Power Authority of the State of New York (the licensee) for the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3, located in Westchester County, New York.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would exempt the licensee from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Paragraph III.D.3, to the extent that a one-time extension would be allowed for conducting Type C local leak rate tests (LLRTs) on containment isolation valves. Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 requires these tests to be performed at intervals no greater than 2 years. Indian Point 3 is operating under an existing exemption that allows Type C tests to be conducted at intervals of no greater than 30 months. The proposed amendment to this exemption would extend the current test interval by 4½ months.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action would allow the licensee to complete the current operating cycle without a shutdown to conduct a Type C LLRT. The licensee commenced operating on 24-month fuel cycles, as opposed to the previous 18-month fuel cycles, starting with fuel cycle 9 in August 1992. The requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Paragraph III.D.3, indicate that Type C LLRTs must be performed during each reactor shutdown for refueling at intervals no greater than 2 years (24 months). In order to conform with this regulation, the licensee would have to shut down Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 and enter an outage before the scheduled end of each fuel cycle.

The NRC staff had previously recognized that certain regulations would not accommodate fuel cycles longer than 18-months. Consequently, the NRC staff issued Generic Letter 91–04, ''Changes in Technical Specification Surveillance Intervals to Accommodate a 24–Month Fuel Cycle.'' This generic letter provides guidance to licensees on how to prepare requests for TS amendments and regulation exemptions which are needed to accommodate a 24-month fuel cycle. The licensee's letters of July 17, 1992, and December 23, 1992, which requested the existing exemption, followed the guidance of Generic Letter 91–04. An exemption allowing the licensee to extend the interval for Type C LLRts was issued on February 19, 1993.

Type C testing for containment isolation valves was performed during the Restart and Continuous Improvement outage; however, due to the length of this outage the 30-month time interval will expire for some of the containment isolation valves prior to the next refueling outage scheduled for spring 1997. The requested amendment to the exemption provides for a one-time extension of up to 4 months so that valve testing may be done during the next refueling outage. Deferral of valve testing will not be used to extend plant operation beyond May 31, 1997.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed amendment to the existing exemption does not increase the probability or consequences of accidents previously analyzed and it does not affect facility radiation levels or facility radiological effluents. The licensee has analyzed the results of previous LLRTs performed at Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3, and has provided the methodology used in extrapolating the previous LLRT data to the proposed 34.5-month interval. The requested exemption is also based on increasing the margin to the allowed combined leakage rate limit by 25 percent. The licensee has provided a sound basis for concluding that the containment leakage rate would be maintained within acceptable limits with a maximum LLRT interval of 30 months. The NRC staff has determined the licensee's actions are consistent with the guidance provided in Generic Letter 91–04.

The change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted area as