

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 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 a hearing is requested, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of no significant hazards consideration. 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: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, 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 Douglas K. Porter, Esquire, Southern California Edison Company, 2244 Walnut Grove Avenue, 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 amendments dated January 2, 1998, as supplemented December 13, 1999, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of January 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**L. Raghavan,**

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

[FR Doc. 00-1174 Filed 1-18-00; 8:45 am]

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## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

### **Southern California Edison Company San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Units 2 and 3; Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendments to Facility Operating Licenses, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for a Hearing**

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

The proposed amendments would revise the SONGS, Units 2 and 3, Technical Specification (TS) related to the containment isolation valves. Specifically, the licensee proposed a revision to TS 3.6.3 to extend the completion times for Section D.1 and D.2 valves from 4 hours to the applicable limiting condition for operation time pertaining to the engineered safety feature system in which the valve is installed.

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.

The Commission has made a proposed determination 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 amendments 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. Will operation of the facility in accordance with this proposed change involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

Response: No.

The proposed note in Conditions E and F of Technical Specification (TS) 3.6.3 allows additional time during on-line maintenance and/or surveillance testing (e.g., motor-operated valve actuator testing) for D.1 and D.2 containment isolation valves. This proposed Completion Time (CT) extension of up to the CT of the Engineered Safety Feature (ESF) systems in which these valves are installed is consistent with the CT for these valves prior to the issuance of San Onofre Unit 2 Amendment No. 119 and Unit 3 Amendment No. 108, which were issued in response to Proposed Change Number (PCN) 430, of the existing TSs.

PCN-430 was a request to revise TS 3.6.3 to add the requirements of Actions E.2 and F.2 based on the results of a Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) which established specific limits on the length of time D1.1 and D.2 valves may be placed in their ESFAS actuated positions. The results of the PRA concluded that these time limits would not result in a significant increase in the risk of either core damage frequency or significant radioactive release frequency. The results of the PRA also concluded that the existing CT (the CT for the ESF system in which these valves are installed) for Actions E.1 and F.1 should be maintained in TS 3.6.3.

The probability of an accident and the consequences of an accident are not affected since no physical change is made and the Safety Analysis remains unaffected. Therefore, operation of the facility in accordance with this change will not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. Will operation of the facility in accordance with this proposed change create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated?

Response: No.

The proposed change does not influence the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated because no physical change is made and the Safety Analysis is not affected. Therefore, operation of the facility in accordance with this proposed change will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

3. Will operation of the facility in accordance with this proposed change involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety?

Response: No.

The margin of safety is unaffected since this proposed change is consistent with the CTs in the TSs governing the system in which these valves are installed. Therefore, this 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 30 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 30-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 30-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 and provide for opportunity for a hearing after 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 and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative 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 6D59, 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 17, 2000, 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 accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>). 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.

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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.

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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 amendments dated April 11, 1996, as supplemented April 6, 1998, March 22, and July 29, 1999, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 12th day of January 2000.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**L. Raghavan,**

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

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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**[Docket 72-1014]**

**Holtec International; Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact Regarding the Request for Exemption From Requirements of 10 CFR Part 72**

By letter dated November 15, 1999, Holtec International (Holtec or applicant) requested an exemption, pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7, from the requirements of 10 CFR 72.234(c). Holtec, located in Marlton, New Jersey, is seeking Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) approval to fabricate four HI-STORM 100 overpacks, and one HI-TRAC 100 transfer cask prior to receipt of the Certificate of Compliance (CoC) for the HI-STORM 100 cask system. The HI-STORM 100 overpack and the HI-TRAC 100 transfer cask are basic components of the HI-STORM 100 system, a cask system designed for the dry storage and transportation of spent nuclear fuel. The HI-STORM 100 cask system is intended for use under the general license provisions of Subpart K of 10 CFR Part 72 by Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) at the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3 (Dresden), located in Morris, Illinois.

**Environmental Assessment (EA)**

*Identification of Proposed Action*

By letter dated October 26, 1995, as supplemented, and pursuant to 10 CFR Part 72, Holtec submitted an application to the NRC for a CoC for the HI-STORM 100 cask system. This application is currently under consideration by the NRC staff. The applicant is seeking Commission approval to fabricate four HI-STORM 100 overpacks and one HI-STORM 100 transfer cask prior to the Commission's issuance of a CoC for the HI-STORM 100 cask system. The HI-STORM 100 cask system is intended for use under the general license provisions of Subpart K of 10 CFR Part 72 by ComEd at Dresden in Morris, Illinois. The applicant requests an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 72.234(c), which state that "Fabrication of casks under the Certificate of Compliance must not start prior to receipt of the Certificate of Compliance for the cask model." The proposed action before the Commission is whether to approve fabrication, including material procurement, and whether to grant this exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 72.7.

*Need for the Proposed Action*

Holtec requested the exemption to 10 CFR 72.234(c) to ensure the availability of overpacks so that ComEd can maintain full core off-load capability at Dresden. Dresden will lose full core off-load capability in the fall of 2001. Dresden requests the delivery of the four HI-STORM 100 overpacks and one HI-TRAC 100 transfer cask by November 20, 2001. Holtec states that to meet this schedule, fabrication must begin by February 15, 2000.

The HI-STORM 100 cask system application, dated October 26, 1995, is under consideration by the Commission. It is anticipated that, if approved, the HISTORM-100 cask system CoC may be issued by July 2000. The proposed fabrication exemption will not authorize use of any Holtec overpack to store spent fuel. That will occur only when, and if, a CoC is issued. An NRC approval of the fabrication exemption request should not be construed as an NRC commitment to favorably consider any Holtec application for a CoC. Holtec will bear the risk of all activities conducted under the exemption, including the risk that the four HI-STORM 100 overpacks and one HI-TRAC 100 transfer cask that Holtec plans to construct may not be usable because they may not meet specifications or conditions placed in a CoC that the NRC may ultimately approve.