



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 17, 2021

LICENSEE: Southern California Edison

FACILITY: San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 23, 2021, PRE-SUBMITTAL
TELECONFERENCE WITH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON ON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSED EXEMPTION TO 10 CFR 72.106(b) (L-2021-
LRM-0027)

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a pre-submittal meeting with representatives of Southern California Edison (SCE) on February 23, 2021. The purpose of the teleconference was to discuss SCE's proposed exemption request to decrease the controlled area boundary (CAB) of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) to less than what is required per Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 72.106(b).

The meeting announcement, with agenda, is found at Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. [ML21043A072](#). The meeting began with opening remarks by the NRC staff, followed by introductions by the SCE attendees. The complete list of attendees is provided in the enclosure; SCE's presentation slides are found at ADAMS Accession No. [ML21053A238](#), and the NRC's staff's presentation slides are found at ADAMS Accession No. [ML21053A441](#).

The NRC staff stated that it would not make any decisions at the meeting, but the NRC staff would listen to licensee's proposed plans for preparing a potential request to move the ISFSI CAB. The NRC staff noted it would comment whether the proposed approach appears to be reasonable and appears to follow the NRC process. The NRC staff explained that these types of meetings are optional, but encouraged, because they have been shown to lead to high quality applications regarding completeness and reduction in the number of requests for additional information.

SCE explained that, based on its interactions with California State Lands Commission, a key State agency, and the provisions of its State lease, it is required to reduce or eliminate the SONGS site exclusion area boundary (EAB) consistent to the maximum extent allowed by law. Also, it shared with the NRC that there is public interest in unfettered access to the Beach at SONGS. SCE plans to eliminate the EAB and to retain the Site boundary and ISFSI CAB. However, the ISFSI CAB must be also addressed because it currently extends on the beach and would require NRC approval to move it to the other side of the seawall. If NRC approval is obtained, SCE would then be able to pursue the elimination of the offsite agreements for control of public access to the beach in front of the SONGS facility under emergency conditions.

During its presentation, SCE stated it was SCE's understanding that the basis for the ISFSI 100 m CAB is radiological protection. The NRC staff stated that is the NRC staff's understanding, but the NRC staff would verify that during its technical review should SCE apply for the exemption. The NRC staff also stated that it is important to note that this distance requirement is based on direct radiation from applicable design basis accidents and not effluents.

SCE also asked what controls are applicable to NRC regarding controlling the ISFSI CAB? The NRC staff referred SCE to the 2005 Humboldt Bay safety evaluation report for allowing a publicly accessed trail through the ISFSI CAB. The NRC staff explained that during cask transfer and storage operations, the public trail is controlled using locked gates to keep members of the public out of the ISFSI CAB and described other controls at Humboldt Bay, such as agreements with the Coast Guard, to limit access from the 100 m distance that extended into the bay. However, the NRC staff stated that it is important to note that NRC did not grant an exemption to the 10 CFR 72.106(b) 100 m distance in this instance, but evaluated this request under 10 CFR 72.106(c) (e.g., the controlled area may be traversed by a highway, waterway, or railroad).

The NRC staff asked SCE what regulatory approaches SCE is thinking about regarding potentially shrinking the ISFSI CAB. SCE stated that it would be asking for an exemption if it decides to move forward with an application. The NRC staff then asked whether SCE would ask for any exemptions specific to Certificates of Compliance Technical Specifications. SCE said that it was not going to ask for such exemptions.

The NRC staff asked whether SCE would be performing dose evaluations under 10 CFR 72.104, "Criteria for radioactive materials in effluents and direct radiation from an ISFSI or MRS" and 10 CR 72.106, "Controlled area of an ISFSI or MRS" to demonstrate dose limits are met for less than 100 m distance as part of its application. SCE said that it would perform those evaluations through the 10 CFR 72.48, "Changes, tests, and experiments" process.

The NRC staff noted that based on the SCE's presentation, it appears that there would be no need to modify the SONGS physical security plan. The NRC staff asked how SCE plans to address the change in the EAB with respect to the Environmental Protection Area (EPA) Protective Action Guides (PAGs). SCE stated that the EAB and ISFSI CAB would be the same boundary and SCE would show that the EPA PAGs would be met at the ISFSI CAB through a 10 CFR 50.54q evaluation. The staff voiced no regulatory process concerns with the proposed SCE strategy.

At this meeting, the NRC staff made no regulatory decisions regarding the merits of the proposed amendment request. The NRC staff inquired that if SCE decides to submit the exemption application, is there an estimated timeframe when the decision would be made. SCE estimated that the application would be submitted sometime in March 2021, at the earliest. There were no action items as a result of this discussion from either NRC staff or SCE.

After the business portion of the meeting, the governmental representatives and officials and members of the public participating in the meeting were asked if they have any questions for the NRC staff about the regulatory process for the proposed action. Also, the NRC staff noted that if the public had other questions for the NRC staff, please submit them to the NRC public affairs office at OPA.Resource@nrc.gov and the NRC staff would respond. There were no questions.

Please direct any inquiries to me at (301) 415-6822 or Amy.Snyder@nrc.gov.



Signed by Snyder, Amy
on 03/17/21

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Docket Nos.: 50-206; 50-361; 50-362
Enclosure: List of Attendees

cc: Listserv

**LIST OF ATTENDEES
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