

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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Prepared June 27, 2024 (for the July 12, 2024 Hearing)

To: Commissioners and Interested Parties
From: Cassidy Teufel, Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division Director
Subject: **Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division Deputy Director's Report for July 2024**

The following coastal development permit (CDP) waivers, immaterial CDP amendments, CDP extensions, emergency CDPs, and negative determinations for the Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division are being reported to the Commission on July 12, 2024. Pursuant to the Commission's procedures, each item has been appropriately noticed as required, and each item is also available for review at the Commission's office in San Francisco. Staff is asking for the Commission's concurrence on the items in the Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division Deputy Director's report, and will report any objections received and any other relevant information on these items to the Commission when it considers the report on July 12, 2024.

With respect to the July 12th hearing, interested persons may sign up to address the Commission on items contained in this report prior to the Commission's consideration of this report. The Commission can overturn staff's noticed determinations for some categories of items subject to certain criteria in each case (see individual notices for specific requirements).

Items being reported on July 12, 2024 (see attached)

Emergency Permits

- **G-9-24-0045**, Line 160 inspection and repair, within the Patterson Avenue right of way (Santa Barbara County)

**Administrative Items for Federal Consistency Matters,
Negative Determinations**

- **ND-0018-24**, Mattole Campground Day Use Pavilion, King Range National Conservation Area (Humboldt County)

Immaterial Amendments, Immaterial Extensions, No-Effects Determinations

- **9-15-0228-A1**, Spent Fuel Storage Installation, San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Southern California Edison Company (San Diego County)
- **9-19-0194-A1**, Public access walkway, San Onofre State Beach (San Diego County)

Waivers

- None

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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June 27, 2024

NOTICE OF PROPOSED IMMATERIAL PERMIT AMENDMENT**Coastal Development Permit Amendment No. 9-15-0228-A1**

To: All Interested Parties

From: Kate Huckelbridge, PhD, Executive Director

Subject: Permit No. **9-15-0228** previously granted to **Southern California Edison Company** for: Construction and operation of an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation to store spent nuclear fuel from San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Units 2 and 3

Project Site: San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, 5000 Pacific Coast Highway, San Diego, CA 92672 (APN 101-520-12)

The Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission has reviewed a proposed amendment to the above referenced permit, which would result in the following change(s):

Installation of outlet vent covers on the existing facility outlet vents at the Holtec Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation facility.

Background and Project Description

The San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) has two Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations (storage facilities) that store spent nuclear fuel and greater-than-class-C-waste¹. The NUHOMS storage facility was approved under CDP No. E-00-014 in 2001 and the Holtec storage facility was approved under CDP No. 9-15-0228 in 2015. The Holtec storage facility consists of a partially below grade concrete and fill berm surrounding an array of 74 fuel storage modules, which contain stainless steel canisters filled with spent fuel. For reference, additional background and information on the current status of the two facilities and the independent inspection, reporting and reviews required by the Commission for each is provided in **Appendix A**.

¹ Greater-than-class-C waste refers to parts of the reactors or structures that require the same type of storage as spent nuclear fuel.

Notice of Proposed Immaterial Permit Amendment

9-15-0228-A1

On March 19, 2024, the Coastal Commission received an application from SCE requesting an amendment to CDP No. 9-15-0228. For purposes of reviewing this proposed amendment, any issues of radiological safety are outside of the Commission's jurisdiction pursuant to federal preemption (*Pacific Gas and Electric Company v. State Energy Commission*, 461 U.S. 190, 205 [1983]). The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has exclusive jurisdiction over all issues of radiological safety. The state may, however, review a project involving the generation, licensing, transport, or storage of radiological materials for other issues, including conformity with the Coastal Act.

SCE requests to install steel weather-resistant outlet vent covers on the Holtec storage facility's existing outlet vents for the purpose of providing additional protection against wind-driven rainwater, while maintaining the storage facility's necessary airflow and heat removal functions. NRC research has shown that stress corrosion cracking in canister fabrication welds is potentially a limiting factor for the long-term service life of stainless steel spent fuel canisters. Stress corrosion cracking is the result of a combination of three factors: a susceptible material, exposure to a corrosive environment, and tensile stresses. The outlet vent covers are intended to address the potential exposure to a corrosive environment. Contaminants in rainwater, such as chlorides, may reduce the long-term service life of the stainless steel canisters. Keeping the canisters drier, reducing their exposure to wind-driven rain, and avoiding exposure to contaminants would add a layer of protection that helps ensure the canisters remain transportable. SCE has indicated that installation of the outlet vent covers does not require NRC approval. The outlet vent covers are made of 13 Ga (0.090") 316 stainless steel and stand approximately 7 inches higher than the existing outlet vents. The vent covers are cone shaped, with the diameter at the top of the cone approximately 7 inches narrower than the existing outlet vents, and the bottom approximately 4 feet wider than the existing outlet vents.

The vent covers would be fabricated at Holtec's facility in New Jersey and would be staged for installation in the SONGS North Industrial Area, where the storage facility is located. No heavy lifting equipment would be required for installation; SONGS personnel would team-lift the vent covers into position and bolt them to the existing vents using hand tools. Once begun, the installation will take approximately 12 weeks to complete for the 74 outlets on the storage facility.

FINDINGS

The Executive Director has determined this amendment to be IMMATERIAL within the meaning of section 13166(b) of the Commission's regulations.² Pursuant to section 13166(b)(1), if no written objection to this notice of immaterial amendment is received at the Commission office listed above within ten (10) working days of mailing this notice, the determination of immateriality shall be conclusive, and the amendment shall be approved (i.e., the permit will be amended as proposed).

² The Commission's regulations are codified in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

Notice of Proposed Immaterial Permit Amendment

9-15-0228-A1

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(2), if a written objection to this notice of an immaterial amendment is received within ten (10) working days of mailing of this notice, and the executive director determines that the objection does not raise an issue of conformity with the Coastal Act or certified local coastal program if applicable, the amendment shall not be effective until the amendment and objection are reported to the Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting. If any three Commissioners object to the executive director's designation of immateriality, the amendment application shall be referred to the Commission to be reviewed as a material amendment at a subsequent Commission meeting. If no three Commissioners object to the executive director's designation of immateriality, that designation shall stand, and the amendment shall become effective.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(3), if a written objection to this notice of an immaterial amendment is received within ten (10) working days of mailing of this notice, and the executive director determines that the objection does raise an issue of conformity with the Coastal Act or a certified local coastal program if applicable, the amendment application shall be referred to the Commission to be reviewed as a material amendment at a subsequent Commission meeting.

The Executive Director has determined this proposed amendment to be "immaterial" for the following reason(s):

- The SONGS North Industrial Area, where the Holtec storage facility and staging area is located, is fully developed and vent installation would not involve ground-disturbing work.
- No heavy lifting equipment is required for the installation work and installation would be performed with hand tools.
- During the nesting bird season, a biologist would perform a pre-construction clearance survey prior to the start of work activities; active nests would require a disturbance-free work buffer.
- All work would take place on the SONGS site and would not affect public access.
- The storage facility is not visible from San Onofre State Beach, and although the vent covers would add 7 inches of height to the storage facility, it would still not be visible from the beach. Similarly, the Holtec storage facility's location is not visible from I-5 or other public access points, and the addition of the vent covers would not impact public views to the ocean from the highway or other inland public access points. Therefore, the vent covers would not add significant levels of glare, block views, or diminish overall visual quality of the area.

If you have any questions about this notice, or wish to register an objection, please contact Holly Wyer at holly.wyer@coastal.ca.gov.

Notice of Proposed Immaterial Permit Amendment

9-15-0228-A1

Appendix A: Additional Background Information

Inspection and Maintenance Program Reporting

As part of its 2015 approval of the Holtec storage facility (CDP No. 9-15-0228), the Commission required that Southern California Edison and its co-participants, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, the City of Anaheim, and the City of Riverside (SCE), develop and implement an inspection and maintenance program for the facility. After the inspection and maintenance program was reviewed by a third-party independent reviewer with expertise (as required under the CDP), the Commission approved the program, and the first inspection of canisters containing spent fuel under this program was completed on March 21, 2024. As described in the approved inspection and maintenance program, SCE has 180 days to provide a report of the inspection results to the Commission and on a public website. The report of the inspection results will be provided to the Commission by September 17, 2024.

Aging Management Program Independent Review

In 2022, the Commission approved an amendment to the CDP for the separate NUHOMS storage facility (CDP No. E-00-014-A2) to extend its term to 2035, which better aligns with that of the Holtec storage facility CDP. As part of this approval, the Commission also required that SCE fund an independent review of the Aging Management Program and Implementing Procedures for the NUHOMS storage facility. This independent review is currently underway and, consistent with the Commission's requirement, the results are anticipated to be presented to the Commission in late 2024.

SONGS Units 2&3 Decommissioning

SONGS Units 2&3 are in the process of being decommissioned under CDP No. 9-19-0194. After decommissioning is complete in approximately 2028, the site will be clear of buildings and other facilities and new locations on-site may be available for relocation of the fuel storage facilities. The CDPs for the Holtec and NUHOMS storage facilities are authorized through October and November 2035, respectively. In 2035, if SCE seeks to extend the term of the CDPs, it is required to submit CDP amendment applications that include an analysis examining the merits and feasibility of off-site and on-site alternative locations for the storage facilities. This timing allows for the completion of decommissioning prior to examining alternative locations for the storage facilities, which will allow for a greater range of alternatives to be assessed.