



SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT ☐ P. O. Box 15830, Sacramento CA 95852-1830, (916) 452-3211  
AN ELECTRIC SYSTEM SERVING THE HEART OF CALIFORNIA

MPC&D 02-005

January 7, 2002

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: E.W. Merschhoff, Regional Administrator  
Region IV  
Parkway Central Plaza Building  
Arlington, Texas 76011-4085

**TEMPERATURE OF RECEIVING WATER EXCEEDS THE RELATIVE LIMIT, NPDES  
PERMIT NUMBER CA0004758**

Dear Mr. Merschhoff:

As we committed to as part of Amendment 45 to the Rancho Seco Technical Specifications, we are notifying the NRC of a violation of Rancho Seco NPDES Permit No. CA0004758. Specifically, on November 27, 2001, the temperature measured downstream of the Rancho Seco discharge was 8° F warmer than the temperature measured upstream of the discharge. The NPDES permit limit is a temperature difference of no more than 5° F upstream and downstream of the Rancho Seco discharge.

The flow of water upstream of the Rancho Seco discharge (ephemeral stream) was minimal compared to the relatively large amount of water that comprises the Rancho Seco discharge. The cool morning air at the time of sampling had a greater influence on cooling the ephemeral stream than on cooling the larger body of water downstream of the discharge. This difference in cooling affect resulted in the higher temperature difference.

This temperature monitoring requirement had not been applied to Rancho Seco in previous NPDES permits. The new requirements became effective in June 2001. However, since the monitoring is applicable only when the ephemeral stream is flowing (i.e., wet weather), there was no potential to exceed the limit until November.

The intent of the temperature limit is to regulate the thermal load of NPDES discharges to protect cold water endangered species. Rancho Seco has no thermal load, but still must comply with the receiving water limits applied to all NPDES dischargers.

Members of your staff requiring additional information or clarification may contact Mr. Bob Jones at (916) 732-4843.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Redeker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Steve Redeker  
Manager,  
Plant Closure and Decommissioning

Cc: J. Hickman, NRC