

**SMUD**SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
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USNRC

June 30, 2003

**DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR 20
(68FR 09595)**

July 2, 2003 (12:15PM)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFFU.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff
Washington, DC 20555

Docket No. 50-312

Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station

License No. DPR-54

**COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULEMAKING ON CONTROLLING THE
DISPOSITION OF SOLID MATERIALS**

ATTENTION: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff

The following discussion contains our comments on the NRC proposed rulemaking on controlling the disposition of solid materials. The Sacramento Municipal Utility district has been actively decommissioning the Rancho Seco Nuclear Plant since 1997. Much of the decommissioning and dismantlement work is separating the radioactive material from the non-radioactive material. This work is done in accordance with current I.E. Circular No. 81-07 and I.E. Information Notice No. 85-92. Any additional options for disposition of very low activity waste would enhance our ability to complete this decommissioning. However, if those options were at the loss of our current clearance program, it would severely impact our completion cost and schedule.

The option of conditional use would likely be extremely burdensome unless some entity (such as DOE) took responsibility to assure material is not used for a prohibited purpose. This would likely make the option prohibitively expensive.

The option of disposal in EPA regulated landfills is an alternative that should be explored for waste with activities up to some predetermined level as a cost-effective approach. Waste processors in some states, such as Tennessee, are doing this with their own waste. The WCS site in Texas is attempting to get a state license for just this approach and would be a cost-effective alternative for very low-level radioactive waste.

Rulemaking should continue to allow very low activity waste to be disposed of in RCRA licensed facilities but must be complemented by a cost effective clearance standard.

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If you, or members of your staff, have questions requiring additional information or clarification, please contact Bob Jones at (916) 732-4843.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SJR", followed by a horizontal line and the word "for" written in a cursive script.

Steven J. Redeker, Manager
Plant Closure and Decommissioning