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SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT □ 6201 S Street, P.O. Box 15830, Sacramento CA 95852-1830, (916) 452-3211
AN ELECTRIC SYSTEM SERVING THE HEART OF CALIFORNIA

MPC&D 04-062

July 19, 2004

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn.: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Docket No.72-11
Rancho Seco Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation
License No. SNM-2510

**RANCHO SECO INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION
REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR 72.44(d)(3) AND PROPOSED
LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 1**

Attention: Randy Hall

In accordance with 10 CFR 72.7 "Specific Exemptions" we are requesting a permanent exemption from 10 CFR 72.44(d)(3), which requires an annual report specifying the quantity of principal radionuclides released to the environment in liquid and gaseous effluents during the previous 12 months of Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) operations.

In addition, in accordance with 10 CFR 72.56 "Application for Amendment of License," we are submitting Proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Rancho Seco ISFSI Technical Specifications to delete the requirement to submit this annual effluent report. The exemption request and proposed license amendment would eliminate the Technical Specification requirement to submit an annual ISFSI effluent report.

The design basis for the Rancho Seco ISFSI is such that it is a passive system that generates no effluents during fuel storage. In the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) issued with the license, the NRC concluded that there are no effluents that could be released from the ISFSI. For example, SER Section 14.4 "Radiological Impact of Normal Operations" states:

There are no credible scenarios by which liquid or gaseous effluents could be released from the DSC.

The results of soil sample analyses for samples taken through several seasonal changes before fuel transfer, during fuel transfer, and after the completion of fuel transfer have

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confirmed that there are no radionuclides in the soil that are above background levels and there are no effluents released from the Rancho Seco ISFSI.

Based on the above, the Technical Specification requirement to submit an annual ISFSI effluent report is not relevant, is not needed, and is an unnecessary administrative burden. Therefore, the NRC should grant the exemption request and proposed Technical Specification amendment.

In addition to the above, we would also like to correct a typographical error on page 5.6-2 of the ISFSI Technical Specifications. Specifically, Section 5.6.1 "Cask Drop" should be numbered 5.6.2 "Cask Drop."

Attachment 1 to this letter provides the safety analysis and exemption request. Attachment 2 provides a copy of the amended pages 5.5-3 and 5.6-2. These pages will replace the existing pages 5.5-3 and 5.6-2. Attachment 3 provides a redline/strikeout version of the affected page 5.5-3 to facilitate NRC review.

We have also sent a copy of this exemption request and proposed amendment to the Radiological Health Branch of the California State Department of Health Services. If you, or members of your staff, have questions requiring additional information or clarification, please contact Bob Jones at (916) 732-4843.

Sincerely,



Steve Redeker
Manager, Plant Closure & Decommissioning

Cc: Randy Hall, NRC Headquarters
NRC, Region IV
Radiological Health Branch of the California State Department of Health
Services

Attachments

CALIFORNIA ALL-PURPOSE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

State of California
 County of Sacramento } ss.

On 7/19/04, before me, Christina Kemmler, Notary Public
Date Name and Title of Officer (e.g., "Jane Doe, Notary Public")
 personally appeared Steve Redeker
Name(s) of Signer(s)

- personally known to me
- proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence

to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.



WITNESS my hand and official seal.

[Signature]
Signature of Notary Public

Place Notary Seal Above

OPTIONAL

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