

January 23, 2008

Ms. Elizabeth Southerland, Director
Division of Assessment and Remediation
Office of Superfund Remediation
and Technology Innovation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
M.S. 5204P
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE
DECOMMISSIONING OF THE RANCHO SECO NUCLEAR GENERATING
STATION IN HERALD, CALIFORNIA

Dear Ms. Southerland:

I would like to thank the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for providing its views on the decommissioning of the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station in Herald, California, in your letter dated October 18, 2007. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) consulted with EPA about the Rancho Seco decommissioning because the licensee's proposed derived concentration guideline levels for certain radionuclides exceeded the soil concentration values in Table 1 of the 2002 "Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NRC and EPA on Consultation and Finality on Decommissioning and Decontamination of Contaminated Sites." In your letter you stated: "In EPA's view, if the licensee is unable to meet the Table 1 soil values, NRC should consider the use of a more restricted land use and appropriate institutional controls. In addition, NRC should consider determining if the use of site-specific parameters was justified in modeling at this site."

In reviewing the licensee's proposed license termination plan, the NRC staff determined that the licensee provided adequate information justifying an industrial scenario as the most likely land use in the foreseeable future. The NRC staff concluded that an industrial scenario is the appropriate land use for demonstrating compliance with the requirements in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20, Subpart E. Therefore, NRC will not adopt EPA's recommendations in your October 18, 2007, letter. Following site remediation activities, NRC staff will review the information in the Final Status Survey (FSS) reports and compare the levels of residual radioactivity against the MOU trigger levels. If the FSS measurements exceed the trigger levels in the MOU, we will contact your office pursuant to the MOU.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the decommissioning activities at the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station, please contact Dr. Keith I. McConnell, Deputy Director, Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery Licensing Directorate, at 301-415-7295.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Larry W. Camper, Director
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the decommissioning activities at the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station, please contact Dr. Keith I. McConnell, Deputy Director, Decommissioning and Uranium Recovery Licensing Directorate, at 301-415-7295.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Larry W. Camper, Director
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

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