



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 14, 2018

Mr. Kevin Thomas
Acting Regional Manager
North Central Region
California Department
of Fish and Wildlife
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ENDANGERED OR
THREATENED SPECIES OR THEIR CRITICAL HABITAT FOR THE RANCHO
SECO NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL
STORAGE INSTALLATION LICENSE RENEWAL REQUEST (DOCKET
NUMBER: 72-0011)

Dear Mr. Thomas:

By letter dated March 19, 2018, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received a request for review and approval of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) license application (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML18101A020) to renew Special Nuclear Materials (SNM) License Number SNM-2510 for the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station (Rancho Seco) specifically licensed Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI), for an additional 40 years.

On June 25, 2018, SMUD supplemented its license renewal application (ADAMS Accession Number ML18221A295). As required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51 "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Regulatory Functions," SMUD submitted an Environmental Report (ER) as part of its application.

The Rancho Seco ISFSI is located within the site boundary of the Rancho Seco, in Sacramento County, California, approximately 42 km (26 mi) north-northeast of Stockton and 40 km (25 mi) southeast of Sacramento (figure enclosed). On June 30, 2000, the NRC issued SMUD a 20 year license to receive, possess, store, and transfer Rancho Seco spent fuel to sealed storage canisters at the ISFSI. The current license expires on June 30, 2020. If this renewal is approved, SMUD will be allowed to continue interim storage of spent fuel at the specifically licensed ISFSI for up to a 40 year period, through June 30, 2060.

As stated in their supplemental ER, SMUD does not currently have plans to expand the ISFSI as part of this license renewal request. In addition, no radioactive gaseous or liquid effluents are released from, nor is radioactive waste generated at, the ISFSI during routine operation.

The NRC staff is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed action in accordance with the NRC regulations in 10 CFR Part 51. In addition, consistent with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the EA will include an analysis of potential impacts to endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat.

To support the environmental review, the NRC staff is requesting input from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to facilitate the identification of endangered or threatened species or critical habitat that may be affected by a renewal of the Rancho Seco ISFSI license. Any input you provide will be used to enhance the scope and quality of our review in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 and 50 CFR Part 402, "Interagency Cooperation—Endangered Species Act of 1973, as Amended." After assessing the information that you provide, the NRC will determine what additional actions are necessary to comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

The Rancho Seco ISFSI license renewal application and supplement are publicly available in the NRC Public Document Room located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the NRC's ADAMS. The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. The ADAMS Accession Number for the application are ML18101A024 and ML18221A295, respectively.

Please submit any comments and/or information you may have regarding this matter within 30 days of receipt of this letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to the ATTN: Ms. Cinthya I. Román, 11555 Rockville Pike, Mail Stop T-4B16, Rockville, MD 20852. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jean Trefethen of my staff by telephone at 301-415-0867 or via e-mail at: Jean.Trefethen@nrc.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Cinthya I. Román, Chief
Environmental Review Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards,
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 72-11
License No.: SNM-2510

Enclosure:
Rancho Seco Site Layout

cc: Mr. Charlton Bonham, CDFW Director

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DATED: December 14, 2018

DISTRIBUTION: WReed, NMSS/DSFM

ADAMS Package Accession Number: ML18324A821

***via e-mail**

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