

NRC PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM



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

October 24, 1979

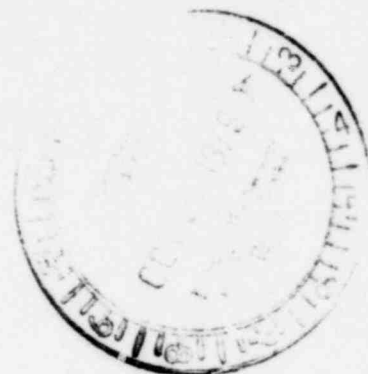
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Sacramento, California 95816

In the Matter of  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station  
Docket No. 50-312

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Gentlemen:

As discussed with you by telephone, I propose that we proceed informally on discovery in this proceeding. Specifically, we should exchange a list of questions among the parties (to the extent that the parties wish to pose some questions) and receive the answers to those questions orally at a meeting to be held in Sacramento on November 6, 1979. To that end, I enclose a brief list of questions for FOE, Messrs Castro and Hursh, and the Energy Commission. Any questions received by the Staff from other parties by approximately the middle of next week (October 31) could be addressed by the Staff at that meeting.

In addition to the matters identified in the enclosed questions, I propose that the parties also come to the meeting prepared to identify their witness(es) and to discuss their bases with respect to each contention they have raised. Appropriate technical advisers should accompany the parties to assure a fruitful exchange of information.

I will contact you by telephone to advise you of the time and place of the meeting. If you are unable to transmit written questions to the Staff so as to be received by October 31, please convey any questions

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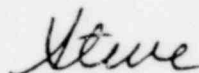
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by telephone call to me at 301/492-7455. If I am unavailable, contact my co-counsel, Dick Hoefling, at 301/492-7520.

I look forward to seeing you on November 6.

Sincerely,



Stephen H. Lewis  
Counsel for NRC Staff

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/enclosure:  
David S. Kaplan, Esq.  
Timothy V. A. Dillon, Esq.  
Mr. Richard D. Castro  
Mr. Michael R. Eaton  
Docketing and Service Section

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California Energy Commission

Contention #3-1: "Understanding Fundamental Aspects of Operation"

Does "personnel" mean only licensed operators and senior operators.

Castro-Hursh

Contention #10: "Small Break LOCA"

This contention states that Rancho Seco has not completed an adequate analysis of potential small breaks. Such an analysis was performed by B&W in response to the NRC Order of May 7, 1979. This report is entitled "Evaluation of Transient Behavior and Small Reactor Coolant System Break in the 177 Fuel Assembly Plant," dated May 1979.\* This report provides the analytical bases for the improved operator guidelines developed by SMUD. If this report is not sufficient, identify the inadequate nature of the report.

Contention #31: "Control Room Configuration"

What specifically in the control room is poorly and inadequately designed such that loss of feedwater transients cannot be avoided?

Contention #32: "Personnel and Management Competence"

Specify, by job category, position title or some other means, those personnel, or groups of personnel, that you consider have not had their competence adequately tested and evaluated. Specify which employees have been "grandfathered." Also specify what qualifications are to be evaluated by the test.

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\*A copy of this document is enclosed for Mr. Hursh's use.

Friends of the Earth

Contention III(d): "Facility Management Competence"

Clarify whether the issue is one of procedural controls to assure the continuing assignment of personnel with acceptable qualifications at the Rancho Seco Station or whether the issue is one of not having established acceptable qualifications for facility management. If the latter is the case, please specify the specific management positions which are in question and what qualifications should be evaluated by the procedures.

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