



SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT ☐ 6201 S Street, Box 15830, Sacramento, California 95813, (916) 452-3211

November 19, 1979

Mr. R. H. Engelken, Director  
Region V Office of Inspection & Enforcement  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1990 North California Boulevard  
Walnut Creek Plaza, Suite 202  
Walnut Creek, California 94396

Re: Operating License DPR-54  
Docket No. 50-312  
Unusual Event 79-02

Dear Mr. Engelken:

In accordance with Technical Specifications for the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station Appendix B, Section 5.6.2.C, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District hereby submits the following written report concerning Unusual Event 79-02, which was initially reported to Mr. R. Fish of your office on November 16, 1979.

On October 24, 1979, the daily grab sample of plant effluent taken at 1300 revealed a chlorine concentration of 0.6 mg/liter. Plant effluent discharge chlorine limits are established by Technical Specifications, Appendix B, Section 2.2 at a maximum of 0.2 mg/liter. The limit has been established for samples measured at Clay Creek at the western edge of SMUD property (site boundary).

The normal routine at the plant is that a chemist, when going to the plant effluent for sampling purposes, takes along a test kit and performs a local analysis. Commitments to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board are such that if analysis shows concentrations in excess of the specification, a followup sample is taken at the site boundary within one hour to determine compliance with the Technical Specifications. Corrective actions such as increased dilution would then be initiated.

On this particular date, the chemist obtaining the grab samples did not carry a test kit to the plant effluent. The sample was taken, brought back to the lab and analyzed. Operators were notified of the high concentration and dilution was initiated approximately 55 minutes after sampling. Security controls governing site entry and exit no longer lend themselves to multiple entries or exits in a short time period. As a result the chemist was unable to obtain a sample at the site boundary within the one hour time frame. Since the one hour sample at the site boundary was not obtained, it is unknown whether the specification for chlorine was or was not exceeded at that location. However, the Plant

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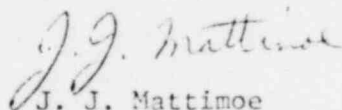
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Review Committee determined that, since no sample was obtained which could verify a lower concentration at the site boundary, the known concentration at the plant effluent would have to be utilized as the actual value and thereby determined the item as reportable.

Chemistry personnel have been informed of this occurrence with emphasis placed on the necessity of a followup sample at the site boundary within one hour. In addition, a test kit has been placed at the plant effluent area to assure that, even if a test kit is inadvertently forgotten, one is available at the area for a local sample. These actions should minimize the recurrence of a similar event.

There were no transients or power reductions associated with this event and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board has been informed of this occurrence.

Respectfully submitted,



J. J. Mattimoe  
Assistant General Manager  
and Chief Engineer

JJM:RWC:HH:jr

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