

Tea

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

April 15, 1980

Docket No. 50-312

Mr. J. J. Mattimoe
Assistant General Manager and
Chief Engineer
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
6201 S Street
P. O. Box 15830
Sacramento, California 95813

Dear Mr. Mattimoe:

By letter dated January 17, 1977, we requested that you evaluate the potential consequences of a postulated Fuel Handling Accident Inside Containment (FHAIC) at the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station. The potential consequences of an accident involving the handling of spent fuel inside containment had not been evaluated previously in a Safety Evaluation for Rancho Seco. By letter dated March 21, 1977, you submitted an evaluation of this accident.

We have reviewed your submittal, and by our own independent analysis, we have calculated that the thyroid potential consequences of the FHAIC for Rancho Seco is 104 Rem at the Exclusion Area Boundary. We require that the potential consequences of an FHAIC are appropriately within the guidelines of 10 CFR Part 100 (i.e., less than 100 Rem thyroid). We have concluded, taking into account the conservative assumptions used in calculating the potential consequence dose, that the potential consequences of the postulated FHAIC for Rancho Seco are sufficiently close to the required 100 Rem thyroid dose to be considered appropriately within the exposure guidelines of 10 CFR Part 100 and are, therefore, acceptable.

The enclosed evaluation also considers the failure of all the fuel pins in two spent fuel assemblies indicated by a recent study, following the dropping of an assembly about 14 feet into the core and directly hitting another assembly. Because the potential consequences of damaging all fuel pins in two assemblies is also within the exposure guidelines of 10 CFR Part 100, we conclude that the potential consequences of this postulated accident are acceptable and no additional restrictions on fuel handling operations and plant operating procedures are needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert W. Reid".

Robert W. Reid, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #4
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure: See next page

Sacramento Municipal Utility
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cc w/enclosure(s):

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