

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-V -80-33

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

May 1, 1980

Facility: Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
Rancho Seco Nuclear Power Plant
Sacramento, California
Docket No. 50-312

Subject: PRESS INTEREST REGARDING MEASURABLE LEVELS OF I-131 IN MILK SAMPLES COLLECTED IN THE THIRD CALENDAR QUARTER OF 1979 NEAR THE RANCHO SECO SITE

Press interest has developed as a result of statements made by a licensee representative that I-131 detected in milk was not due to plant effluent releases but rather fallout. A representative of the State of California purportedly stated that the licensee cannot rule out plant effluent releases as the source. A concerned citizen has brought these positions to public light and is expected to make a presentation at the SMUD Board of Directors meeting tonight (May 1).

The samples in question were collected in July of 1979. The highest single milk sample showed 18 picocuries/liter. The licensee is required pursuant to Technical Specification to submit a report to NRC within one week if 19 picocuries/liter or greater, and a report within 30 days if quarterly average I-131 in milk exceeds 4.8 picocuries/liter. The average I-131 concentration measured at the peak location for the third quarter for 1979 was 1.6 picocuries/liter.

A concentration of I-131 in milk of 2.4 picocuries per liter will result in a dose to the thyroid of a 0-2 year old child of 15 mrem/year, based upon consumption of one liter per day for the year.

Region V became aware of this controversy about 10:30 A.M. on May 1, 1980 from press inquiries.

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PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-V-80-33 (Cont.)

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May 1, 1980

Review of licensee raw environmental data will be performed in accordance with existing inspection procedures.

This notification is provided for information and is considered closed for reporting purposes.

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