

November 9, 1989

Dr. A. David Rossin  
Environmental Conservation Organization  
Suite 320  
101 First Street  
Los Altos, California 94022

Dear Dr. Rossin:

Your letter dated October 27, 1989, to Chairman Carr was referred to me for reply. In your letter you expressed concern, on behalf of the Environmental Conservation Organization, that a potential restart of the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station may be compromised by closure actions initiated before plant decommissioning is authorized in accordance with Federal regulations. Based on similar concerns expressed in a letter dated June 27, 1989, your organization was included on the Rancho Seco distribution list to allow you to keep abreast of the regulatory process associated with plant closure.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is closely monitoring the Rancho Seco plant closure to ensure continued compliance with the plant operating license and Federal regulations. Before initiating irreversible steps toward decommissioning, the licensee for Rancho Seco, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), is required to submit a decommissioning plan in accordance with 10 CFR 50.82 and obtain approval from the NRC. Consistent with applicable provisions of the Commission's regulations, public participation in those matters requiring NRC action will be solicited by the NRC through notices published in the Federal Register.

Interim operating license amendments and other regulatory relief that do not appear to constitute irreversible steps toward decommissioning may be sought by the licensee and authorized by the NRC before approval of the overall decommissioning plan. To the extent such matters require NRC action, they will be announced via a Federal Register notice and public participation will be solicited before the action is finalized. Procedures describing the public participation process are included in the Federal Register with notifications of proposed actions.

Sincerely,  
original signed by James G. Partlow  
Thomas E. Murley, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

\* see previous concurrence

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JLee  
11/9/89  
*concur in corp.*  
(A)D:DRSP  
JZwoirski  
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DRSP/PDV  
SReynolds:sg  
11/7/89  
*concur in corp.*  
(A)D:DRSP  
GMHolahan  
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ADP  
JPartlow  
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TECH EDITOR  
*mark up in corp.*  
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DONRR  
TMurley  
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*concur in corp.*  
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Dr. A. David Rossin

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Procedures available to the public to challenge proposed NRC actions are included in the Federal Register. You will have the opportunity to intervene in the Rancho Seco decommissioning whenever an interim closure action or the decommissioning plan is announced by the NRC.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Murley, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Dr. A. David Rossin

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Procedures available to the public to challenge proposed NRC actions are included in the Federal Register. You will have the opportunity to initiate your intentions to intervene in the Rancho Seco decommissioning whenever an interim closure action or the decommissioning plan is announced by the NRC.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Murley, Director  
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