

August 5, 1980

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS  
POOR QUALITY PAGES

Mr. R. H. Engelken, Director  
Region V Office of Inspection and Enforcement  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1990 North California Boulevard  
Walnut Creek Plaza, Suite 202  
Walnut Creek, California 94936

Re: Operating License DPR-54  
Docket No. 50-312  
Reportable Occurrence 80-35

Dear Mr. Engelken:

In accordance with Technical Specifications for Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station, Section 5.6.2c, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District hereby submits the following written report concerning an Unusual Event, which was reported to Mr. C. Yuhas of your office on July 28, 1980.

On July 3, 1980, the Technical Specifications limit for plant effluent pH was exceeded. Technical Specifications, Appendix B, Section 2.4 limits the effluent pH to a minimum 6.5 and maximum 8.5 except as allowed otherwise by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. The exception is in effect when the source of dilution water, Folsom South Canal, is itself greater than the 8.5 maximum. On July 3, 1980, the pH of the Folsom South Canal was below 8.5 and therefore the Technical Specification limit was in effect.

The plant effluent was automatically diverted to one of the retention basins during the time of the occurrence. However, momentary reductions in the effluent pH (below the divert set point) caused the diversion system to realign the effluent flow to offsite. It was during one of the flow realignment evolutions that an effluent sample indicated a momentary pH of 8.7. This is attributed to the small amount of off-standard water which may have been trapped in the waste or dilution water conduits and then released when flow was momentarily realigned.

It was determined that the automatic diversion system operated properly and that the release of a small amount of off-standard water is unavoidable when realigning the effluent flow to offsite. The District contacted the California Regional Water Quality Control Board concerning possible alleviation of reporting

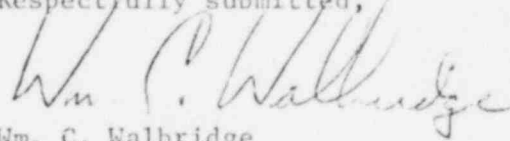
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requirements when the duration of an off-standard release is minimal and caused by a small quantity of water trapped in the conduits. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board agreed that the effects of this occurrence were minimal. However, since each occurrence should be evaluated on its merits, they recommended that the District continue the current program of surveillance and reporting.

There were no plant transients nor power reductions associated with this event.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wm. C. Walbridge".

Wm. C. Walbridge  
General Manager

JJM:HH:jr