



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

October 31, 1980

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. Robert W. Reid, Chief
Operating Reactors, Branch 4
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Docket 50-312
Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating
Station, Unit No. 1

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NRC

Dear Mr. Reid:

SMUD is participating in the B&W Integrated Reactor Vessel Materials Surveillance Program with the Toledo Edison Company, Davis-Besse Unit 1 reactor serving as the host reactor for Rancho Seco surveillance capsules. Technical Specification 4.2.8.2 for Rancho Seco requires the submittal of a report, or an application for a facility operating license amendment, whenever (starting one year after Davis-Besse begins commercial operation at 100% full power) Davis-Besse does not maintain a cumulative reactor utilization factor of 65% or greater.

Davis-Besse reached 100% full power on July 31, 1978, and as of one year later had not maintained the required utilization factor. By letter of October 31, 1979, the District provided information to support the continued operation of Rancho Seco.

At the end of the second year of commercial operation - July 31, 1980 - the Davis-Besse cumulative reactor utilization factor remained below 65%. However, the current Rancho Seco Technical Specifications related to reactor vessel material irradiation are valid for an accumulated neutron fluence corresponding to five effective full power years (EFPY) of operation. A Rancho Seco surveillance capsule with an exposure equivalent to greater than eight EFPY was withdrawn from Davis-Besse during the second quarter of 1980. The material specimens in this capsule are presently being tested and the data evaluated. As a result, revised Technical Specifications for operation beyond five EFPY will be submitted during 1981, prior to Rancho Seco approaching the current license limits.

Therefore, as the present Technical Specifications related to reactor vessel material irradiation remain valid, and the limits will

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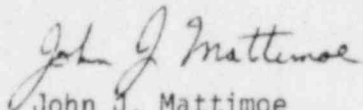
Mr. Robert W Reid

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be modified before expiration to account for ongoing irradiation and to extend the applicability period, continued operation of Rancho Seco is acceptable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John J. Mattimoe".

John J. Mattimoe
Assistant General Manager
and Chief Engineer