



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 34 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-54

SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

RANCHO SECO NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-312

Introduction

By telecopied letter dated June 5, 1981, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (the licensee) requested a temporary change to the Technical Specifications (TSs) appended to Facility Operating License No. DPR-54 for the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station. The change would add the following footnote to Specification 2.6.2.D:

"The last sentence in Specification 2.6.2.D is replaced by the following paragraph during the period June 6, 1981 through June 30, 1981:

If these monitors are inoperable for a period exceeding 72 hours, tank discharges may be continued up to 14 days provided that discharges are collected in a retention basin. The mixed retention basin will be sampled and analyzed. Retention basin valving will be verified to prevent further additions to the basin and diluted discharges from the retention basin will be sampled and analyzed every 8 hours during release."

Background

The reason for the requested change is to permit water discharges from the plant with an inoperable radiation monitor in the effluent line. As a result of a steam generator tube failure, secondary system water was slightly contaminated. This water has been processed but will be discharged from the plant rather than be reused. The effluent radiation monitor piping arrangement creates a "crud trap" causing inaccurate activity level readings on the monitor. The effluent discharge is the restricted, based on the inaccurate reading, and plant startup could not continue without a violation of the TSs.

Evaluation

The licensee's proposed changes have been evaluated against the NRC's tentative Appendix I Radiological Effluent Technical Specifications Acceptance Criteria. All criteria for discharge of effluent with an effluent monitor inoperable were either met or exceeded by the licensee's proposal. Prior to, and every 8 hours during release, effluent grab samples will be taken and analyzed. The analysis will provide more precise information than would be available from the effluent monitor. In addition, the increased frequency of sampling will provide: (1) assurance that TS requirements are

not exceeded, and (2) assurance that the radioactive material concentrations in the effluent do not exceed the limits specified in 10 CFR 20. Based on the above, we find the licensee's proposed change acceptable.

Environmental Consideration

We have determined that the amendment does not authorize a change in effluent types or total amounts nor an increase in power level and will not result in any significant environmental impact. Having made this determination, we have further concluded that the amendment involves an action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact and, pursuant to 10 CFR §51.5(d)(4), that an environmental impact statement, or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

Conclusion

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) because the amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered and does not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, the amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration, (2) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (3) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Dated: June 23, 1981