

February 26, 1990

Docket No. 50-312

Mr. David Boggs
General Manager
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
6201 S Street, P.O. Box 15830
Sacramento, California 95813

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Dear Mr. Boggs:

SUBJECT: INTERIM RELIEF REGARDING 10 CFR 50, APPENDIX J REQUIREMENTS
(TAC NO. 75510)

By letter dated October 20, 1989, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), the operators of the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station, requested exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, which specify testing methods and the acceptance criteria necessary to ensure that containment integrity is adequate. Containment integrity is required to prevent release of radioactive contamination following an accident inside containment. Since there is no fuel in the Rancho Seco containment, there is no credible accident scenario which would rely on containment integrity to protect the public health and safety.

The NRC staff has commenced the administrative process to approve the requested exemption. In the interim, this letter grants an immediate waiver of compliance to the requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix J as they relate to Rancho Seco since such testing would serve no useful purpose at this time. This waiver of compliance will remain in effect until NRC responds to the SMUD exemption request or until fuel is transferred back into containment.

Sincerely,

original signed by John Zwolinski
Gary M. Holahan, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

*See previous concurrence

DRSP/PD5*	REGION V	NRR/DRSP*
SReynolds:dr	<i>2 mem via Klen</i>	GHolahan
2/21/90	<i>2/22/90 2/22/90</i>	2/22/90

[RS BOGGS 75510]

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PDR ADOCK 05000312
PDC

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. M. Holahan".

Gary M. Holahan, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

Mr. David Boggs

Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating
Station

cc:

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