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August 16, 1982

822-1090

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In the Matter of
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
(Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station)
Docket No. 50-312

Administrative Judges Rosenthal, Buck and Kohl:

On August 13, 1982, a telephone conference was held in order for the Appeal Board to pose certain questions it has of Licensee and the NRC Staff in connection with its sua sponte review of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's Initial Decision (Permitting Continued Reactor Operation), LBP-81-12, 13 N.R.C. 557 (1981). This is a special proceeding on the adequacy of the modifications required by an immediately effective order of the Commission issued on May 7, 1979. It was agreed, at the conclusion of the

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conference, that a communication from counsel would be adequate to memorialize and summarize Licensee's responses to the Appeal Board's questions.1/

Participating for Licensee in the conference were: Robert A. Dieterich, Supervisor of Nuclear Licensing and Environmental Engineering in the Generation Engineering Department of Sacramento Municipal Utility District; David C. Holt of Babcock & Wilcox Company; and the undersigned. Mr. Dieterich has reviewed and endorses this report.

The first question addressed pages 3 and 4 of the Staff's "Affidavit of Ernest D. Sylvester," December 4, 1981, where Mr. Sylvester reported that SMUD would be submitting to the Staff a revised reliability study of the Rancho Seco auxiliary feedwater ("AFW") system. Mr. Dieterich reported that the study filed with the Staff on January 18, 1982, assesses the reliability of the AFW system after proposed modifications have been accomplished. Consequently, he stated that the study is not directly relevant to a consideration of the reliability of the system as it currently exists.

The second question addressed pages 12 and 13 of the Sylvester Affidavit and the issue of loss of all AC power. Mr. Holt confirmed the Staff's statement that the revised SMUD AFW reliability analysis^{2/} includes consideration of loss of all AC power (i.e. by considering the reliability of the diesel generators and other relevant equipment).

Question number 4 inquired about the in-service inspection program for the HPI nozzle components. Mr. Dieterich reported that the ASME Code requires an inspection every 10 years, and that SMUD has committed to perform an additional (i.e., beyond ASME Code requirements) radiographic examination at the next refueling outage of the undamaged (and therefore unrepaired) nozzles. He also stated that the downstream end of the new thermal sleeve is now expanded into the nozzle to assure retention.^{3/}

The fifth question asked about the apparent inability of loose parts monitoring systems to detect the loss of HPI nozzle

1/ Licensee's report, then, is not a summary of the conference. Rather, it is a summary of the information presented by Licensee.

2/ The study was performed for SMUD by B&W.

3/ See also Mr. Dieterich's affidavit of April 21, 1982.

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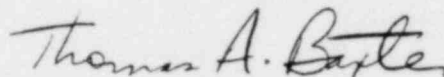
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thermal sleeves. Mr. Dieterich explained that the system would detect the initial impact of a loose thermal sleeve becoming lodged, although it could not be diagnosed as a thermal sleeve. The sleeve could cause damage only if it was moving around, which would be detected. If the lost sleeve does not move about, the loose parts monitoring system would provide no further indications. Mr. Dieterich reported, however, that the loose parts monitoring system is designed to detect any material which could damage the instrument lines. He also described measures previously taken to enhance the protection of those lines.

The last question went to the resolution of the AFW sparger problem at Rancho Seco. Mr. Dieterich reported that an adequate repair has been accomplished with the addition of an external sparger.

Today I informed Chairman Rosenthal and Mr. Black (the NRC Staff counsel) that Licensee expects the Rancho Seco reactor to become critical sometime on Wednesday, August 18, 1982.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas A. Baxter
Counsel for Licensee

TAB:jah

cc: Service List attached

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING APPEAL BOARD

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)
SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT) Docket No. 50-312
)
(Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating)
Station))

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