

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION V

Report No: 50-312/90-15

Docket No. 50-312

License No. DPR-54

Licensee: Sacramento Municipal Utility District
14440 Twin Cities Road
Herald, California 95638-9799

Facility Name: Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station

Inspection at: Herald, California (Rancho Seco Site)

Inspection conducted: September 29, 1990 through November 9, 1990.

Inspectors: C. J. Myers, Resident Inspector

Approved By:

Howard J. Wong
H. Wong, Chief
Reactor Projects Section II

11/26/90
Date Signed

Summary:

Inspection between September 29 and November 9, 1990 (Report 50-312/90-15)

Areas Inspected: This routine inspection by the Resident Inspector involved the areas of operational safety verification, health physics and security observations, maintenance, surveillance and testing, and followup items. During this inspection, Inspection Procedures 71707, 62703, 61726, 92701 and 30703 were used.

Results:

Summary of Violations or Deviations:

None.

DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

Licensee Personnel

- D. Keuter, Assistant General Manager (AGM), Nuclear
- *J. Shetter, Deputy AGM and Nuclear Plant Manager
- P. Bender, Manager, Quality and Assurance
- P. Turner, Manager, Nuclear Technical Services
- D. Brock, Manager, Nuclear Maintenance
- S. Redeker, Manager, Nuclear Operations
- C. Linkhart, Manager, Nuclear Support Services
- L. Houghtby, Manager, Nuclear Security
- M. Bua, Manager, Nuclear Radiation/Environmental Protection
- G. Delezenski, Supervisor, Nuclear Licensing

Other licensee employees contacted included technicians, operators, mechanics, security, and office personnel.

*Attended the Exit Meeting on November 14, 1990.

2. Operational Status of Rancho Seco

During this inspection period, the plant remained shutdown with the reactor defueled and all fuel stored in the spent fuel pool. The reactor coolant system and steam generators are being maintained in a full wet lay-up condition. The main turbine, condenser, and feedwater systems are layed up in a dry condition with dehumidifiers installed. Approximately 90% of the planned lay-up activities has been completed, including most of the hardware modifications.

3. Operational Safety Verification (71707)

The inspector reviewed control room operations which included access control, staffing, observation of system alignments, procedural adherence, and log keeping. Discussions with the shift supervisors and operators indicated an understanding by these personnel of the reasons for annunciator indications, abnormal plant conditions and maintenance work in progress. The inspector also verified, by observation of valve and switch position indications, that safety systems were properly aligned as required by technical specifications for plant conditions.

Tours of the auxiliary, reactor, and turbine buildings, including exterior areas, were made to assess equipment conditions and plant conditions. Also, the tours were made to assess the effectiveness of radiological controls and adherence to regulatory requirements. The inspector also observed plant housekeeping and cleanliness, looked for potential fire and safety hazards, and observed security and safeguards practices.

During a tour of the -20 ft. level in the reactor building, the inspector observed extensive areas of rust and flaking of the protective coating on the external surfaces of the nuclear service cooling water (NSW) which provides cooling water to the reactor building emergency coolers. In addition to the housekeeping deficiency, the inspector was concerned that the degradation may have unexpectedly accelerated due to humid conditions in the reactor building. The inspector expressed his concerns to licensee management who acknowledged that the condition was a long-standing condition which had been previously addressed. However, corrective actions had been deferred due to permanent plant shutdown. The licensee immediately cleaned the loose debris from the affected areas and initiated an engineering review of the adequacy of their preservation measures for the piping to preclude unacceptable degradation. The inspector found the licensee's actions to be adequate.

During work activities, it appeared that the health physics managers were conducting plant tours and monitoring work in progress. They appeared aware of significant work which occurred during this period.

The inspector's Radiation Work Permit (RWP) review revealed that the RWP did include: job description, radiation levels, contamination, airborne radioactivity (if expected), respiratory equipment, protective clothing, dosimetry, special equipment, RWP expiration, health physics (HP) coverage, and signatures. The RWP radiation and contamination surveys were kept current. Employees understood the RWP requirements.

The inspector observed that personnel in the controlled areas were wearing the proper dosimetry and personnel exiting the controlled areas were using the monitors properly. Labeling of containers appeared appropriate.

The inspector walked down portions of the protected and vital area boundaries to ensure that they were intact and that security personnel were properly posted where known deficiencies existed. The inspector also observed protected area access control, personnel screening, badge issuing and maintenance on access control equipment. Access control was observed. Personnel entering with packages were properly searched and access control was in accordance with licensee procedures. The inspector observed no obstructions in the isolation zone which could conceal a person or interfere with the detection/assessment system. Protected area illumination appeared adequate.

No violations or deviations were identified.

4. Monthly Surveillance Observation (61726)

Technical Specification (TS) required surveillance tests were observed and reviewed to ascertain that they were conducted in accordance with Technical Specification requirements.

Portions of the following surveillance activities were observed:

- ° SP.447 High Range Noble Gas Effluent Monitor,

- ° Installation testing of dehumidifiers for the main turbine.

The following items were considered during this review: testing was in accordance with adequate procedures; test instrumentation was calibrated; limiting conditions for operation were met; removal and restoration of the affected components were accomplished; test results conformed with TS and procedure requirements and were reviewed by personnel other than the individual directing the test; the reactor operator, technician or engineer performing the test recorded the data and the data was in agreement with observations made by the inspector, and that any deficiencies identified during the testing were properly reviewed and resolved by appropriate management personnel.

No violations or deviations were identified.

5. Monthly Maintenance Observation (62703)

Maintenance activities for the systems and components listed below were observed and reviewed to ascertain that they were conducted in accordance with approved procedures, regulatory guides, industry codes or standards, and the Technical Specifications.

- ° Corrective maintenance excavation of contaminated soil in the tank farm.
- ° Installation activity for the radwaste blender/dryer.

The following items were considered during this review: The limiting conditions for operation were met while components or systems were removed from service; approvals were obtained prior to initiating the work; activities were accomplished using approved procedures and were inspected as applicable; functional testing or calibration was performed prior to returning components or systems to service; activities were accomplished by qualified personnel; radiological controls were implemented; and fire prevention controls were implemented.

No violations or deviations were identified.

6. Followup Items (92701, 92700)

Cathodic Protection System

The inspector followed up on the licensee's root cause evaluation and corrective actions involving a loss of configuration control during modifications of the cathodic protection system. As previously discussed in Inspection Report 90-12, the licensee had identified that modifications to the cathodic protection system had been initiated with inappropriate procedural control. The inspector reviewed Potential Deviation from Quality, PDQ 90-242, which determined that although no damage to plant equipment resulted, proper procedures for maintaining plant configuration control had been circumvented to expedite the initial work activity. All work activity on the modification was stopped until proper controls were subsequently established. The plant manager issued a site order to reinforce that appropriate procedural controls for all

modifications of the controlled plant configuration must continue to be maintained. The inspector found the licensee's corrective actions to be adequate.

The inspector noted that the cathodic protection system is not a safety-related system. However, the NRC inspector emphasized the need to maintain proper configuration control of the plant and the need for adherence to site procedures.

No violations or deviations were identified.

7. Exit Meeting (30703)

The inspector met with licensee representatives at various times during the report period and formally on November 14, 1990 (noted in paragraph 1). The scope and findings of the inspection activities described in this report were summarized at the meeting. Licensee representatives acknowledged the inspector's findings at that time.