



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

October 21, 1982

DIRECTOR OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
ATTENTION JOHN F STOLZ CHIEF
OPERATING REACTORS BRANCH 4
US NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON DC 20555

DOCKET 50-312
RANCHO SECO NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
UNIT NO 1
SAFETY VALVE OPERABILITY

On October 19, 1982, I informed you of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's position regarding operability of the Dresser Safety Valves at Rancho Seco Unit No. 1. We felt that both valves were operable based on our knowledge of the EPRI test data and ring positions of the Rancho Seco valves. We also discussed an evaluation being performed by the Babcock & Wilcox Company of our valve performance. Optimum ring settings are not directly available from the EPRI test data since our model valves were not tested. Therefore, the B&W evaluation consisted of an interpolation of the best EPRI data. We have been informed by the B&W Company that their evaluation concludes that our valves should lift at the proper set point, should not chatter, and should pass at least 50% of rated flow. This letter is intended to document our position that we still feel the valves to be operable.

Since valve performance cannot be quantitatively determined for given ring settings at this time, we feel the preliminary B&W evaluation confirms our position pending a more rigorous analysis to be performed as required by NUREG0737. The B&W Company's letter of October 15, 1982, informing the NRC of this potential deficiency, discusses the fact that only a small percentage of the flow from one valve is needed for moderate frequency events. We therefore continue to feel that our valves will perform their intended function in a satisfactory manner as required by the Rancho Seco Unit No. 1 technical specifications. This position has been concurred with by the Plant Review Committee, and should our position change, we will promptly notify you.

John J. Mattimoe
General Manager

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