



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

October 19, 1982

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

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

Last week, the Babcock & Wilcox Company informed you of a potential deficiency concerning the effects of ring settings on Dresser safety valves. Since Rancho Seco Unit No. 1 has two model 31759A Dresser valves, we have performed an extensive review of our maintenance records to determine ring settings, and have initiated an analysis by B&W to determine what effect these may have on valve performance. Based on our knowledge at this time, including confidence in the ring positions, we feel both valves are operable as defined in the Rancho Seco Unit No. 1 Technical Specifications.

The set point of one safety valve is verified each refueling outage as a Technical Specification requirement. This is done on the pressurizer as outlined in the Dresser Instruction Manual. This is not an item of concern discussed in the potential deficiency and we have no reason to believe the valve set points are in error.

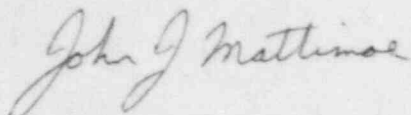
The valve capacities are of course not tested and EPRI tests on valves similar to those at Rancho Seco led to the concerns on ring settings. Our valves have a rated nameplate flow capacity of 417,000 lbs/hr and the Rancho Seco Unit No. 1 Technical Specifications only require 345,000 lbs/hr. The analysis being performed by B&W is utilizing a scaling technique which has been shown to be effective in comparing the two valve sizes tested at EPRI. A preliminary evaluation shows that our valves are set in a range which should provide rated, if not greater than rated, flows. In addition, the short inlet pipe configuration at Rancho Seco should provide for stable operation at these settings. Also, plant data indicates that these valves have exhibited a stable performance when operated in the past.

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If the analysis being performed by B&W or the detailed analysis of our valves for compliance with NUREG-0737, Item II.D.1 should indicate our belief that these valves are operable is incorrect, we will promptly notify you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John J. Mattimore".

John J. Mattimore
General Manager