

Central File



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555
September 16, 1987

Mr. Edward Smeloff
Director, Ward II
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
P. O. Box 15830
Sacramento, CA 95852-1830

Dear Mr. Smeloff:

I am responding to your letter dated August 12, 1987, addressed to Chairman Lando Zech. In that letter you requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) hold a hearing in the Sacramento area to address the design flaws in each of the five specific systems that were identified in the Union of Concerned Scientists' petition, and the ability of the NRC to evaluate and assess the level of danger inherent in the continued operation of Babcock and Wilcox-designed plants.

The petition to which you referred was submitted by the Union of Concerned Scientists on February 10, 1987 pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206. The petition was then referred to the NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation for appropriate action, in accordance with usual Commission practice. The petition requested the Commission to (1) require all utilities operating or building nuclear power reactors designed by B&W to modify their nuclear generating facilities to correct alleged safety deficiencies; (2) hold public hearings on the sufficiency of these modifications to correct the alleged deficiencies; and (3) revoke the operating license or construction permit of any utility that does not meet the proposed requirements that emerge from (1) and (2) above.

In addition, the petition requested that NRC immediately suspend the operating licenses and construction permits of any utility operating or building nuclear power reactors designed by B&W. By letter dated March 13, 1987, the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, informed the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) that the concerns expressed in the petition did not warrant immediate suspension of the operating licenses and construction permits in question.

The NRC staff is continuing to review the petition, and a formal decision on the requests stated in the petition is scheduled to be issued in the near future. The staff's decision will be subject to the Commission's review.

The NRC staff has reviewed your requests and determined that the issues are the same as those contained in the UCS petition. When the NRC staff's response to the UCS petition is issued, you will be sent a copy.

I trust the NRC staff's response to the UCS petition will adequately address your concerns.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

L-4-1
PETITION

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PDR TOPRP EMVBW
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "T. Murley".

Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Local PDR



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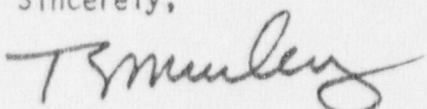
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