



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

Local PD 2.

Docket 312

DEC 13 1979

Mr. Harry H. Wrinkle  
3315 Turnbridge Drive  
Sacramento, California 95823

Dear Mr. Wrinkle:

Your letter of October 22, 1979 to Chairman Hendrie and Mr. Denton has been referred to this office for reply. You expressed concern about the operation of SMUD's Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station, particularly emergency evacuation plans, the hearing being conducted by an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB), and the economic hardships associated with plant shutdowns. You also mentioned a proposal by Aerojet General Corporation for disposal of low-level liquid radioactive waste.

With regard to emergency evacuation planning, we appreciate your comments and concerns and want to assure you that we are working with Federal, State, and local officials to enhance the emergency plans at all operating nuclear power plants. Needless to say, this issue is receiving more attention than it had before the accident at TMI-2. A copy of your letter has been forwarded to the appropriate NRC Offices responsible for this issue.

As indicated in Mr. Heltemes' letter to you of July 27, 1979, the responsibility for decisions regarding the hearing on Rancho Seco was designated to an ASLB. In response to requests from Friends of the Earth, the Environmental Council of Sacramento and Original SMUD Ratepayers Association, from two individual members of the Board of Directors of SMUD, and the California Energy Commission, the ASLB will convene a hearing to litigate issues that have been ruled appropriate by the ASLB. This hearing is scheduled to begin in late February 1980. The public is invited to attend the hearing.

Your next concern related to the shutdown of Rancho Seco. As Mr. Denton stated in his letter to you of July 23, 1979, we were aware of the economic hardships encountered while the plant was shutdown. Our primary responsibility is to assure the protection of the health and safety of the public; however, we have made every effort to avoid unnecessary delays in the resumption of operations at Rancho Seco, as well as the other Babcock & Wilcox plants which were shutdown.

On October 24, 1979, the Aerojet Energy Conversion Company submitted a topical report for review by the NRC. This report, "Radioactive Waste Volume Reduction System," describes a system for processing liquid and

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Mr. Harry H. Wrinkle

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combustible radioactive wastes and converting these wastes into a dry salt/ash product. We assume this is the system you mentioned in your letter. The NRC staff is presently developing a schedule for review of this report.

We appreciate your interest and hope this information satisfies your concerns.

Sincerely,

*Patrick D. O'Reilly*

for W. F. Kane, Acting Chief  
Standardization Branch  
Division of Project Management

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3315 Turnbridge Drive,  
Sacramento, California, 95823,  
October 22, 1979.

Harold R. Denton,  
Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
and  
Joseph M. Hendrie, ✓  
Chairman, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
Washington, D.C. 20555.

Gentlemen,

Thanks to Mr. Denton for his prompt reply to my letter of June 14, 1979. Rancho Seco, in Sacramento, is breezing along and has had only a few minor tie-ups since going back on the line this summer, not enough to upset the power picture here in Northern California during one of the hottest summers in this area on record.

As you know, Pacific Gas & Elec. Co. "loans" power to SMUD when Rancho Seco is shut down and gets it back when it is running, plus buying all the surplus power the facility turns out over and above what SMUD needs for its own customers. Without Seco this summer, this part of California would no doubt have experienced brown-outs and black-outs on the hottest days.

Public office buildings here have kept their thermostats at 80 degrees and SMUD GM William Walbridge did a great job in his TV appeals to SMUD customers to save electricity, and they did. This winter the Utility District is busy putting in changes requested by NRC and upgrading performance of all Seco's personnel.

Steps are also being taken to set up a dispersal plan for all persons living in a 10 mile radius of Seco. Pacific Telephone has a page in this area's phone book with a map of the entire area showing zip code numbers. If SMUD takes a suggestion given it, this page of a map showing the zips can be used with all the major highways overlaid on it, such as 1-5, 80 and 99 going north and south and 80 going west and east and 50 going east. Fortunately, major high radiate from this area like spokes in a wheel. Anybody currently living in the 10 mile radius could be evacuated without crowding the highways since it is more sparsely settled than most other parts of the area. Check the map for the zip code and there/18 your highway no.

Since your nuclear engineer "in residence" at Seco is seeing to it that SMUD is fast making it "fail safe", 99 per cent of the people here would like to see you call off the November hearing on Rancho Seco because foes of Nuclear Power, such as a wealthy actress we won't name, will gather funds to fly in activists and "experts" to stir up and cause scare tactics to alarm local residents. They did this at the trial of eleven protestors who scaled the fences at Seco earlier this year (not one was from Sacramento or other areas adjoining Seco) and made a "circus out of it."

The two month shutdown of Seco this year cost SMUD customers well over two million dollars and PG&E customers 38.2 million as PG&E had to buy oil where it could to push production on the oil fired plants to the tune of as much as \$28 a barrel. Now that Diablo Canyon is ready to go, it is costing PG&E customers about a million dollars a day in interest costs on its much over a billion dollar plant, in personnel ready to go but being held back from working, and in the value of the electricity not being turned out. This does not even mention that vast amount of precious oil that has to be used by the utility that could have been saved the moment Diablo Canyon goes on the line.

Acro-Jet General Corporation of Sacramento has come up with a means to reduce low level liquid atomic waste 90 per cent to a residue that won't burn, absorb moisture and will not "eat through" metal. Ray Garcia is merchandising the device. See attached clipping from a local publication. Four have been sold to U.S. Nuclear Plants.

Harry H. Grinkle

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Attachment:

Chemist Eugene Vander Wall and his team came up with the below mentioned process, which Ray Garcia of Aero-Jet General is now marketing along with his marketing group. They are talking to SMUD and to managers of nuclear plants throughout the U.S. and the world.

Governor Dixie Lee Ray of Washington and the Governor of Nevada have now banned burying nuclear waste in their states. Perhaps the Federal Government could be induced to build two disposal plants quickly at these two sites and nuclear plants in the nation could be charged for costs in disposing of their liquid and solid low level radioactive wastes. These sites for the plants would be at the dump sites themselves and all the dangerous materials stored there now could be processed and made harmless.

Garcia's phone in Sacramento is Area Code 916--355-2722 and he is there Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific Time.

## NEW DEVELOPMENT BY AEROJET

A system for reducing the low level radioactive wastes from nuclear power plants by as much as ten to one, developed by Aerojet Energy Conversion Company of Sacramento, will be used by Commonwealth Edison Company of Chicago and Carolina Power & Light Company of Raleigh, N.C. in generating plants currently under construction.

In making the announcement of the contracts totaling nearly \$6.5 million, Aerojet Vice President Wayne E. Kramer explained that the system utilizes a unique fluid bed heat exchange process which converts the low-level radioactive liquid wastes to a free-flowing solid which has a consistency similar to table salt. The salts then are mixed with a solidification agent such as cement and put into 55-gallon metal drums for shipment to burial sites.

Low-level radioactive wastes generated by commercial nuclear power plants consist primarily of materials

and liquids from water purification systems, laboratories, equipment drains, laundry wastes, and cleaning solutions. These low-level wastes should be distinguished from high level wastes which are generated during the reprocessing of spent fuel elements.

Commonwealth Edison will utilize the system designed by the California firm at its Byron nuclear station 100 miles west of Chicago and at its Braidwood station, which is some 40 miles southwest of the city. With a generating capacity of 2240 megawatts each, the two plants will provide electric power to 2.2 million customers.

Under the terms of the contracts, Aerojet will supply the hardware and associated engineering services to the utilities, who will install the systems.

Aerojet Energy Conversion Company is a division of Aerojet Liquid Rocket Company of Sacramento.

SACRAMENTO BUSINESS

OCTOBER 1978

The cost is about 2 million dollars each according to Garcia.

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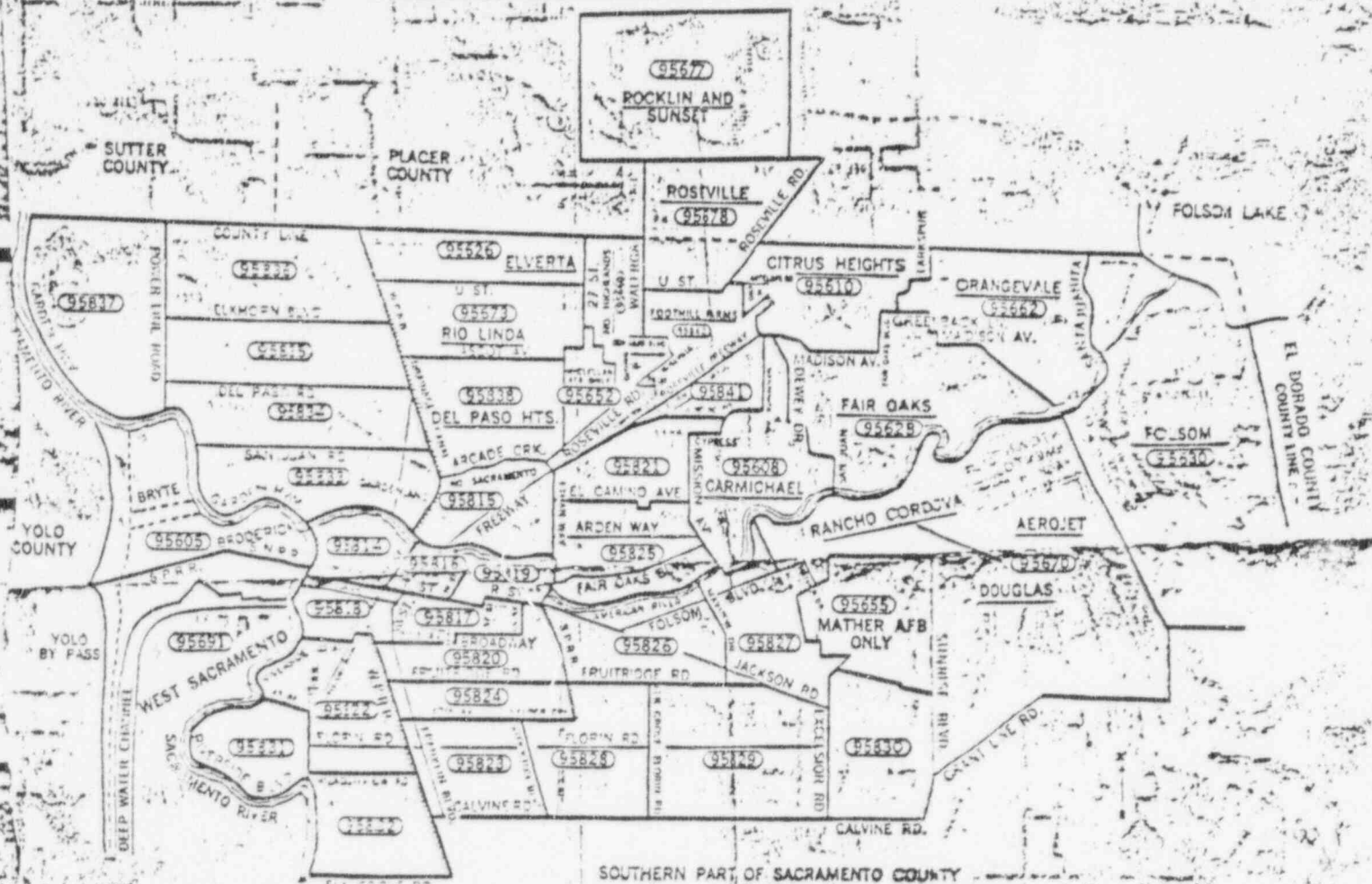
# METROPOLITAN SACRAMENTO GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS



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## POSTAL ZIP CODES



SOUTHERN PART OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

### SPECIAL ZIP CODES

BOX NUMBERS	ZIP CODES
Alphabets	95813
1-231	95801
241-471	95802
481-711	95803
721-959	95804
961-1139	95805
1141-1379	95806
1381-1619	95807
1621-1799	95808
1801-2038	95809
2041-2271	95810
2281-2511	95811
2521-3027	95812
254441-255516	95825
5001-5589	95817
60001-61076	95860

BOX NUMBERS	ZIP CODES
7001-7437	95826
8001-8320	95818
9501-9989	95823
13001-13999	95813
15001-15999	95813
160001-161434	95816
19001-19497	95819
20001-20669	95820
22001-22634	95822
26001-26630	95826
28001-28775	95828
38241-38900	95838
41001-41999	95841
130001-130022	95813
214001-215017	95821

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## Oil Crisis Solution

## Europe Committed To Nuclear Power

By Don Cook  
Los Angeles Times

PARIS — On the Rhone River east of France's second largest city, Lyon, the great outer shell of the world's first commercial fast-breeder nuclear reactor is nearing completion.

In 1983, it is scheduled to start feeding 1,200 megawatts of electricity — enough to supply 600,000 homes — into the French power system.

Being built by a French-German-Italian consortium at an estimated cost of \$1.4 billion, the Super-Phenix reactor is symbolic of the long-term commitment almost everywhere in Europe to meet the oil crisis by stepping up the production of nuclear power.

At present, nuclear power accounts for 10.3 percent of the electricity produced in the nine countries that make up the Common Market, compared with 12.5 percent in the United States. By 1985, plants already under construction are expected to increase the nuclear share in Western Europe to 40 percent.

Fast-breeder development in the United States, along with other aspects of nuclear power, is bogged down in political, technological, environmental, regulatory and safety arguments, while the Europeans are moving steadily ahead.

The sole American breeder project, an experimental reactor being built at Clinch River, Tenn., has just survived another administration effort to eliminate it by cutting off its financing.

The Europeans build nuclear power plants faster than they can be built in the United States. They have an excellent safety record, with no accidents so far in the nuclear workings of any of their power stations. Generally, they have more confidence in nuclear power and they manage their planning with fewer problems because of the interlocking of government authority over publicly owned utilities.

There are 55 nuclear power stations throughout Western Europe, turning out 35,000 megawatts of power. Seventy-seven additional nuclear stations are under construction or are planned for completion by the middle of the coming decade, and 31 are planned for the 1990s.

In Eastern Europe, there are plants under construction that over the next five years will double the nuclear-produced electricity of the Warsaw Pact countries. Czechoslovakia's Skoda Works has 15

nuclear power plants on its order books, including components for two plants being built in Cuba.

In Western Europe, Britain has the largest number of plants in operation. France is next and West Germany is in third place. France will move to the top in the next three years.

The following is a country-by-country survey of the status of nuclear power and the political problems involved in the principal countries of Western Europe:

• France — Sixteen nuclear power stations in operation, producing 7,960 megawatts or 13.5 percent of the nation's electricity. The French have by far the largest nuclear program of any country in Europe — a total of 33 additional stations (including the Super-Phenix) that will come into operation between now and 1987, to add another 34,000 megawatts to their nuclear capacity.

By that time, France will get an estimated 60 percent of its electricity from nuclear plants, more than any other country in the world, according to current projections.

• West Germany — Fifteen nuclear stations operating, producing 9,305 megawatts or about 10.4 percent of the nation's electricity. Under construction or planned to start in the near future are 11 other plants that will add 12,000 megawatts to capacity. Seven more plants are in the long-range planning stage.

The political problems surrounding nuclear power in Germany are highly complex because of the division of powers between the federal and state governments.

• Britain — Thirty-three plants operating, producing just over 8,000 megawatts or 12 percent of the nation's electricity. Eight more plants are under construction to provide an additional 5,000 megawatts, and two are in the long-range planning stage.

Because of the advent of North Sea oil, the British have not been under any great pressure to push ahead rapidly with nuclear

power, as the French are doing.

• Sweden — Six nuclear power plants, producing 3,760 megawatts or 25 percent of the nation's electricity, currently the highest proportion in Europe. Sweden also has the strongest anti-nuclear lobby in Europe; two new plants have been completed but the government has not given permission for them to be put into operation.

Six additional plants are being built, to be ready by 1991, and if and when they are all producing it will mean another 5,000 megawatts, making Sweden 45 percent dependent on nuclear electricity.

• Belgium — Four plants, producing 1,660 megawatts or 21 percent of the nation's electricity. There is not much of an anti-nuclear lobby in Belgium. Four more plants are being built, to produce an additional 3,800 megawatts by 1983. At that point, Belgium will get 45 percent of its electricity from nuclear power.

• Switzerland — Four plants producing 1,660 megawatts, or about 14 percent of the nation's power. A fifth plant will go into operation in 1981, with 950 megawatts, and no more after that with 2,000 added megawatts.

• Italy — Four plants, producing 1,450 megawatts, less than 3 percent of the nation's electricity. Three more plants are under construction and two are planned.

• Spain — Three plants, producing 1,070 megawatts; two more under construction with a firm commitment to add seven more.

Elsewhere in Europe, the Dutch have large supplies of natural gas and Rotterdam is the oil refining center for all of Europe, so there has been no great need to consider a nuclear program.

Norway, awash in North Sea oil, and with an enormous potential for hydroelectric power, has had no need for nuclear power, although the question is under study and public discussion.

Denmark has no nuclear power and a strong anti-nuclear lobby.

It's all  
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