



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

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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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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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