



SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT ☐ 1708 59th Street, Box 15830, Sacramento, California 95813; (916) 452-3211

October 16, 1978

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Mr. R. H. Engelken
NRC Operations Office
Region V
1990 N. California Boulevard
Walnut Creek Plaza, Suite 202
Walnut Creek, California 94596

Re: Operating License DPR-54
Docket No. 50-312
Unusual Event 78-3

Dear Mr. Engelken:

In accordance with Technical Specifications for the Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station, Appendix B, Section 5.6.2C, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District hereby submits the following written report concerning Unusual Event 78-3. This event was initially reported to your office October 9, 1978.

Plant effluent discharge dissolved oxygen limits are established by Technical Specifications, Appendix B, Section 2.5 A, at not less than 5.0 mg/liter. Grab samples of the plant effluent water for oxygen analysis are obtained 100 yards downstream of the plant discharge and from Hadselville Creek at points 100 yards upstream and 100 yards downstream of the confluence with Clay Creek and analyzed weekly. On September 13, 1978, the sample 100 yards downstream of the confluence of Hadselville and Clay Creek was analyzed at 2.2 mg/liter. The discrepancy was not noted until October 6, 1978, during the monthly review of data for the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The limitations in this specification were established by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board prior to initial startup. In the interim, water flow beyond the District's property (confluence of Hadselville and Clay Creek) has varied due to neighboring property owners building dams and spillways to control water flow through their property for irrigation purposes. As a result the normal sampling locations often have little or no flow depending upon the property owners usage at the time. As a general rule when no flow conditions are encountered the sample is usually obtained downstream of the spillway rather than from the stagnant area. On this particular date this was not done and the sample was drawn from the stagnant area rather than downstream of the spillway. As a result the specification was not met.

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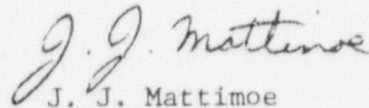
October 16, 1978

Presently the District is renewing its Discharge Permit with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. The District will discuss this problem with appropriate personnel from CRWQCB. A possible change to the discharge permit in the area of sampling locations may be forthcoming due to the District having little or no control of flow in these areas.

To preclude recurrence of not meeting a specification and not noting the discrepancy until the end of the month review, all personnel involved with the sampling and the review responsibility have been reminded of the necessity of prompt notification of "out of spec" conditions.

There was no plant transient or shutdown associated with this event.

Respectfully submitted,



J. J. Mattimoe
Assistant General Manager
and Chief Engineer

JJM:RWC:sal

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