

SMUD News Release

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

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News Media Services

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Sacramento Municipal Utility District completes clean up of Rancho Seco

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has released the majority of the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant for unrestricted public use, marking the successful completion of the decommissioning of the facility. Eighty acres of the site now fall below the NRC's regulatory requirements of a maximum annual dose of 25 millirem from residual contamination. The average person in the United States receives about 300 millirem a year from background or natural radiation.

Approximately 11 acres of land including a storage building for low-level radioactive waste and a dry-cask spent fuel storage facility will remain under NRC licenses. SMUD will continue to secure and protect the remaining NRC licensed land and facilities until all radioactive material is removed from the site. "This is the culmination of nearly twenty years of effort on the part of the Rancho Seco staff to meet the voter mandate to shutdown and bring the facility to a least cost and least environmentally impacting status," said SMUD Assistant General Manager of Energy Supply Jim Shetler. "In doing so, the staff have completed one of the most cost-effective decommissioning efforts in the United States."

The NRC initially issued SMUD an operating license for Rancho Seco in 1974, and the plant began commercial operation in 1975. The plant was shutdown as a result of a voter initiative in June 1989.

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