

July 5, 2000

LICENSEES: Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation (SNEC) and GPU Nuclear Corporation (GPUN)

FACILITY: Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility (SNEF)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING BETWEEN SNEC, GPUN AND THE NRC STAFF

On May 30, 2000, representatives of the NRC staff met at NRC Headquarters with representatives of the SNEC and GPUN, the licensees for the SNEF. Enclosure one is a list of meeting attendees. Enclosure two is the briefing material provided by the licensees at the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the schedule for the NRC review of the SNEF license termination plan (LTP) which was submitted to NRC on February 2, 2000. The licensees had assumed NRC approval of the LTP in the September 2000 time frame. However, based on experience gained by the NRC staff during reviews of other LTPs, the schedule for the Saxton LTP review has an estimated approval date of early 2001.

The licensees discussed the impact that approval of the LTP in early 2001 would have on the decommissioning project. The licensees stated that reducing staff at the site would not reduce costs and that winter weather was driving completion of outside activities. Potential options were discussed to reduce the impact of the review schedule. The NRC staff stated that because of the nature of the review, increasing resources would not expedite the completion date of the review. However, review of the licensees' final survey plan could be given priority. This would allow a request for additional information in this subject area to be sent to the licensees in early July with a requested response in 30 days. Accelerating this part of the review would allow the licensees to start final survey activities in the September time frame with minimal risk that NRC would find the survey methodology unacceptable. However, because characterization and area classification activities are still in progress and because the NRC would have not completed review of the balance of the licensees' LTP, particularly the derived concentration guideline levels (DCGLs) proposed by the licensees, there is some risk that surveys that were completed could need to be repeated. The staff estimates that questions on the licensees' DCGLs would be transmitted to the licensees in September. After discussion, it was agreed to pursue this approach.

The licensees also discussed the status of decommissioning activities at the SNEF and the remaining significant activities.

There was also a discussion of the NRC's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act to consider the radiological and non-radiological environmental impact of foreseeable actions taken at the site after license termination. This would include demolition of the CV. Examples of environmental impacts that would need to be considered by NRC is the removal of the above ground section of the CV as scrap steel and leaving the concrete and steel structure of the lower half of the CV in the ground.

The NRC staff suggested that the licensees submit information as soon as possible that is known that the NRC staff will need without waiting for a formal question from NRC. An example of this information would be characterization and area classification results for the Saxton Steam Generating Station Discharge Tunnel. The NRC staff also suggested that the licensees review any request for additional information and responses that have occurred for other licensees that have submitted LTPs.

It was agreed that the NRC and licensees staff would meet as needed during the LTP review process to facilitate the request for additional information process and the overall review. The licensees pointed out that any request for additional information that would require additional measurements to be taken may require a longer time to answer than questions with just written answers. It would be helpful if NRC could identify this type of question early in the development of questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Alexander Adams, Jr., Senior Project Manager
Events Assessment, Generic Communications and
Non-Power Reactors Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-146

Enclosures: 1. List of Meeting Attendees
2. Briefing Material

cc w/enclosures: Please see next page

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Experimental Corporation

Docket No. 50-146

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Alexander Adams, Jr., Senior Project Manager
Events Assessment, Generic Communications and
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