

November 22, 2000

Mr. G. A. Kuehn, Jr.
Program Director SNEC Facility
GPU Nuclear, Inc.
2574 Interstate Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17110

SUBJECT: SAXTON NUCLEAR EXPERIMENTAL FACILITY - NOTICE OF
CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT (TAC NO. MA8076)

Dear Mr. Kuehn:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility License, Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination, and Opportunity for Hearing" related to your February 2, 2000, as supplemented, request for amendment to Amended Facility License No. DPR-4 for the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility (SNEF). The proposed amendment would approve the License Termination Plan for the SNEF.

The notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

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

Enclosure: As stated

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Program Director SNEC Facility
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November 8, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Biweekly Notice Coordinator

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION IN BIWEEKLY FR NOTICE -
NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF
AMENDMENT TO FACILITY LICENSE, PROPOSED NO
SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION DETERMINATION,
AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING (TAC NO. MA8076)

GPU Nuclear Corporation and Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation (SNEC), Docket
No. 50-146, Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility (SNEF), Bedford County, Pennsylvania

Date of amendment request: February 2, 2000, as supplemented on August 11 and
September 18, 2000.

Description of amendment request: The proposed amendment would approve the license
termination plan for the SNEF.

Basis for proposed no significant hazards consideration determination: As required by
10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensees have provided their analysis of the issue of no significant
hazards consideration, which is presented below:

The proposed change is necessary to achieve the decommissioning objective of
terminating the license and releasing the site for unrestricted use. As such, the proposed
change:

1. Will not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an
accident previously evaluated since accidents which might occur during the active
decommissioning phase of the SNEC facility are bounded by the twelve accidents
addressed in section 3.0 of the Updated Safety Analysis Report (USAR). The
accident analysis addressed in the USAR demonstrate that no adverse public health
and safety impacts are expected from accidents that might occur during
decommissioning operations at the SNEC facility. The greater part of radioactively
contaminated materials and components originally located in the SNEC facility
Containment Vessel are no longer on site, having been shipped as radioactive
waste.

Enclosure

Implementation of the SNEC License Termination Plan involves a continuation of the decommissioning process including the final status survey activity to be performed prior to site closeout at the end of the dismantlement phase. These activities do not involve a significant increase in either the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. Will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated. Accidents previously evaluated in the USAR access different methods of dispersing radioactive material to the environment, which include a loss of support systems and external events. Remaining dismantlement activities and final status survey work described in the License Termination Plan are similar to those previously performed and will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously evaluated.
3. Will not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. The Technical Specifications currently in place at the SNEC facility were developed to safely decommission the SNEC facility. Issuance of the proposed amendment would not reduce the controls established by the technical specifications for activities performed at the SNEC facility. The proposed License Amendment establishes additional controls to ensure License Termination Plan activities are performed effectively. Thus, this change does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the analysis of the licensees and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration.

Attorney for the Licensee: Ernest L. Blake, Jr., Esquire, Shaw, Pittman, Potts, and Trowbridge, 2300 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037

NRC Branch Director: Ledyard B. Marsh