

January 31, 2001

Mr. G. A. Kuehn, Jr.
Vice President, SNEC and
Program Director SNEC Facility
GPU Nuclear, Inc.
Route 441 South
P.O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057-0480

SUBJECT: SAXTON NUCLEAR EXPERIMENTAL FACILITY - ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
(TAC NO. MB0692)

Dear Mr. Kuehn:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" notice related to your November 30, 2000, as supplemented on January 18, 2001, request for amendment to Amended Facility License No. DPR-4 for the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility (SNEF). The proposed amendment would change the name GPU Nuclear Corporation to GPU Nuclear, Inc., where it appears in the facility license.

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

cc w/enclosure:
Please see next page

Saxton Nuclear
Experimental Corporation

Docket No. 50-146

cc:

Mr. Sandy Levin
Chief Nuclear Officer
GPU Inc.
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Morristown, NJ 07962-1911

Mr. Michael P. Murphy, Nuclear Engineer
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Department of Environmental Protection
13th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office
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P.O. Box 8469
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8469

Mr. Jim Tydeman
1402 Wall Street
Saxton, PA 16678

Mr. James H. Elder, Chairman
Concerned Citizens for SNEC Safety
Wall Street Ext.
Saxton, PA 16678

Mr. Ernest Fuller
1427 Kearney Hill Road
Six Mile Run, PA 16679

Saxton Borough Council
ATTN: Peggy Whited, Secretary
9th and Spring Streets
Saxton, PA 16678

Mr. David J. Thompson, Chair
Bedford County Commissioners
County Court House
203 South Juliana Street
Bedford, PA 15522

Mr. Larry Sather, Chairman
Huntingdon County Commissioners
County Court House
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Saxton Community Library
Front Street
Saxton, PA 16678

Carbon Township Supervisors
ATTN: Penny Brode, Secretary
R. D. #1, Box 222-C
Saxton, PA 16678

Hopewell Township Supervisors
ATTN: Sally Giornesto, Secretary
RR 1 Box 95
James Creek, PA 16657-9512

Mr. D. Bud McIntyre, Chairman
Broad Top Township Supervisors
Broad Top Municipal Building
Defiance, PA 16633

Mr. Don Weaver, Chairman
Liberty Township Supervisors
R. D. #1
Saxton, PA 16678

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
ATTN: S. Snarski/P. Juhle
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203

The Honorable Robert C. Jubelirer
President Pro-Temp Senate of
Pennsylvania
30th District
State Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

James J. Byrne
Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating
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Mr. Edwin Fuhrer
AmerGen Energy Co., LLC
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Middletown, PA 17057

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ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
(TAC NO. MB0692)

Dear Mr. Kuehn:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" notice related to your November 30, 2000, as supplemented on January 18, 2001, request for amendment to Amended Facility License No. DPR-4 for the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility (SNEF). The proposed amendment would change the name GPU Nuclear Corporation to GPU Nuclear, Inc., where it appears in the facility license.

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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

cc w/enclosure:
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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
SAXTON NUCLEAR EXPERIMENTAL CORPORATION
AND
GPU NUCLEAR CORPORATION
DOCKET NO. 50-146
SAXTON NUCLEAR EXPERIMENTAL FACILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an amendment to Amended Facility License No. DPR-4 issued to GPU Nuclear Corporation and Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation (the licensees), for possession of the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility (SNEF), located in Saxton, Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would revise Amended Facility License No. DPR-4 to change the legal name GPU Nuclear Corporation to GPU Nuclear, Inc. wherever it appears in the license to reflect the change in name of the corporation.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensees' application for amendment dated November 30, 2000, as supplemented by letter dated January 18, 2001.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed to conform the license to reflect the change in the legal name of GPU Nuclear Corporation to GPU Nuclear, Inc.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed amendment to the SNEF amended facility license to reflect the change in the legal name of GPU Nuclear Corporation to GPU Nuclear, Inc. will have no impact on the continued safe possession of the facility. Also, the change does not alter the corporate existence of the company, or its obligations, responsibilities or liabilities as related to its responsibility as a licensee for the SNEF. All legal characteristics, other than the legal name of the company will remain the same. An identical change was previously approved by the NRC for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (Amendment No. 194 issued on January 14, 1998) and for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station, Unit-1 (Amendment No. 207 issued on April 24, 1998).

Therefore, the proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the “no-action” alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action involves an administrative amendment that does not involve the use of irreversible or irretrievable resources. Therefore, there is no alternative use of resources to be considered.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on January 4, 2001, the staff consulted with the Pennsylvania State official, M. Murphy of the Bureau of Radiation Protection, Department of Environmental Protection, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee’s letter dated November 30, 2000, as supplemented by letter dated January 18, 2001, which are available for public inspection, and/or copied for a fee, at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory

Commission's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of January, 2001.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Ledyard B. Marsh, Chief
Events Assessment, Generic Communications and
Non-Power Reactors Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation