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E910-01-0001  
January 30, 2001

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Agency  
Attention: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen,

Subject: Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation (SNEC), Operating License No., DPR-4, Docket No. 50-146  
Schedule Information as Requested in NRC Request for Additional Information, RE: License Termination Plan, (TAC NO. MA8076) dated January 17, 2001

In the NRC Letter of January 17, 2001 to the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation (SNEC) the following information was requested by January 31, 2001:

- A schedule for supplying information on the development of the phased ground water monitoring program,
- A schedule for supplying information on the radiological characterization of land areas surrounding the Containment Vessel (CV), and
- Characterization and remediation plans for the former Saxton Steam Generating Station (SSGS).

This information is provided below.

### **Phased Ground Water Monitoring Program**

As discussed with NRC representatives on November 14, 2000 and December 6, 2000, GPU Nuclear agreed to implement additional ground water monitoring on and around the SNEC facility site to supplement the existing program. The first phase involved the installation of seven additional wells; three nests consisting of a shallow (overburden) and a bedrock well and one additional shallow (overburden) well installed in a separate location. This program is based on our discussions with you on November 14, 2000 and December 6, 2000 that were referenced in Question 3 of your January 17, 2001 letter and differs slightly from your description of the program in that the additional well was a shallow (overburden) well and not a bedrock well. Installation of those wells has been completed and the first water level measurements obtained. Physical land surveys are in progress to verify the new well elevations. Our hydrogeological consultant, Haley & Aldrich, Inc., recommends that level data be collected through February 2001 for use in evaluating the hydrogeologic issues identified in Question 3. Haley & Aldrich, Inc. will

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then analyze the data and provide a comprehensive report which should address all five (5) of the hydrogeologic issues identified as items to be provided in Question 3. This report should be available by the end of March 2001 and will be provided to the NRC following acceptance.

In the second quarter of 2001, periodic sampling and analysis of these seven wells will begin. The radiological data from these wells will be used in conjunction with the physical data to determine the need for additional monitoring locations if any. The results of sampling will be reported in the annual REMP report.

In order to address the classification and radiological conditions beneath the CV base, GPU Nuclear will install a bedrock monitoring well adjacent to and hydraulically down gradient from the CV. This well's screened interval will range from five (5) feet above to at least five (5) feet below the CV concrete base. Due to planned remediation in the areas where such a well could be installed, remediation and restoration of these areas must be completed prior to installation. Therefore, installation cannot take place before September 2001. Following installation, data from this well will be used in conjunction with the physical data to determine the need for additional monitoring locations if any. Sampling and data reporting will occur as described above.

### **Radiological Characterization Schedule**

GPU Nuclear Letter E900-00-0016, dated September 18, 2000, responded to NRC's Request for Additional Information dated August 18, 2000. In that response, GPU Nuclear committed to perform additional characterization of certain areas of the SNEC Facility. These areas were the Decommissioning Support Facility (DSF), the SSGS Discharge Tunnel and surrounding environs, the CV Pipe Tunnel subsurface soil, and pavement and subpavement soil. In addition GPU Nuclear intends to do additional characterization of SNEC Facility yard drains.

GPU Nuclear intends to provide this characterization information to the NRC in phases as follows:

- Phase 1, July 1, 2001 – DSF, CV Pipe Tunnel subsurface soil and pavement and subpavement soil.
- Phase 2, September 1, 2001 – SSGS Discharge Tunnel and surrounding environs, and
- Phase 3, December 31, 2001 – SNEC Facility yard drains

Additionally the NRC's Request for Additional Information dated November 8, 2000 requested characterization information on river sediment. The schedule for this activity is anticipated to coincide with Phase 2 above, but will be formalized in our response to the November 8, 2000 request.

### **Characterization and Remediation Plans for the SSGS**

As described in GPU Nuclear's letter E910-00-0018, dated December 4, 2000, the SSGS was demolished in 1975 and backfilled with demolition debris. It further stated that preliminary characterization discovered radiological contamination in two of the sumps in excess of GPU Nuclear's proposed DCGL's (for surface contamination). Our response to question 13 in GPU Nuclear letter E910-00-0016 dated September 18, 2000

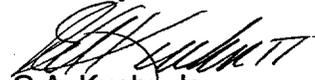
provides these results. GPU Nuclear is currently in the process of removing the demolition debris from the SSGS basement and is nearing the completion of that effort. A significant challenge now facing the project is the disposition of several inches of water that is present in the SSGS basement footprint due to it being below existing ground water levels and in communication with the SSGS Intake Tunnel located beneath the SSGS Basement. Additionally, samples of this water taken prior to the current debris removal effort indicated the presence of both radiological and non-radiological contaminants that must be considered in any disposition program. Current planning is to isolate the areas of the basement containing the previously identified sumps to perform an extensive characterization and remediation effort and then to perform additional characterization in the remainder of the basement. These activities are estimated to be complete and characterization results provided to the NRC in conjunction with the Phase 2 activities discussed above.

Additionally, because of the communication between the SSGS Basement and Intake Tunnel and the recirculation of Discharge Tunnel water into the Intake Tunnel during some phases of SSGS operation, the possibility exists that some radiological contamination exists in the Intake Tunnel. Therefore a characterization program of the Intake Tunnel is being developed with an anticipated completion date consistent with Phase 3 above.

Any additional remediation of the SSGS would be planned based on these characterization results.

If you have any questions regarding this information please contact Mr. James J. Byrne at (717) 948-8461.

Sincerely,



G.A. Kuehn Jr.  
Director, SNEC Facility

Cc: NRC Project Manager  
NRC Project Scientist, Region 1