

May 14, 2002

LICENSEES: Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation (SNEC) and GPU Nuclear, Inc. (GPU)

FACILITY: Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility (SNEF)

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

On April 8, 2002, representatives of the NRC staff met at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, with representatives of the SNEC and GPU, the licensees for the SNEF. Attachment one is a list of meeting attendees. Attachment two is the slides used by the licensees during the meeting.

The plant was operated between 1962 and 1972, and it was shut down in May 1972. In February 1975, the plant was placed in SAFSTOR until 1986, when phased dismantlement began with the removal of the support buildings, contaminated soil, and some materials in the containment. The licensees' decommissioning plan became the Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report. The resubmitted License Termination Plan (LTP) was accepted for detailed technical review in March 2000.

Technical review of the LTP has generated requests for additional information (RAI). This meeting was scheduled to discuss (1) NRC staff review of information that the licensees presented to the NRC in their response to RAI2 (RAI dated November 8, 2000, from the NRC), (2) observations from a visit to the SNEC site conducted by NRC staff on March 11, 2002, (3) NRC staff review of additional characterization data provided by the licensees, and (4) issues from continuing NRC staff review of the LTP. Discussion topics for the meeting were forwarded to the licensees in a letter from the NRC dated March 28, 2002 (ADAMS accession no. ML020860292). The discussions with the licensees' technical staff and consultants provided clarification and a better understanding of the site specific technical data and related information.

The Chief of the Decommissioning Projects Branch in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) opened the discussions by expressing concern about the pace of progress in the resolution of the RAI issues related to the LTP and the need to show that the process leading to license termination works. It was stated that the NRC staff seeks consistency and technical soundness in its reviews of LTPs. It was suggested that the Saxton staff may find it useful to have discussions with other licensees with LTP applications under review by the NRC.

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The licensees stated that their goal was to better understand what information the NRC staff needs and to help the NRC staff understand the information that the licensees have submitted.

The technical discussions focused on two areas, the pathway analysis and health physics issues.

In the area of pathways analysis, SNEC agreed to use the DandD code default parameter values for metabolic and behavioral parameters, if available. These will be treated as constants in the sensitivity analysis. If no DandD code default parameter value is available, the NRC staff advised that these parameters be treated stochastically in the sensitivity analysis. The NRC staff suggested that SNEC develop DCGL values using a deterministic analysis instead of a probabilistic analysis. It was suggested by the NRC staff that a probabilistic analysis be used in conducting the sensitivity analysis. The NRC staff also suggested that SNEC treat distribution coefficients (K_d) as a stochastic parameter in the sensitivity analysis. SNEC indicated that volumetric area factors will be revised once the modeling issues are resolved. SNEC will update the range of the ground-water hydraulic slope based on well data. SNEC will confirm that assuming a 10,000 m² contaminated area is bounding in terms of the extent of contamination at the site and the proposed size of the survey units. SNEC agreed to provide NRC a copy of the Co-Physics report. SNEC will provide information to justify the elimination of some isotopes from the list for which DCGL values will be developed. In the area of pathway analysis, the NRC staff will re-evaluate the need for additional information to close out RAI2 Question 6 and agreed to review information provided by SNEC during the meeting on their modeling in preparation for future meetings.

In the area of health physics, the NRC staff discussed with the licensees several outstanding issues concerning site characterization. The licensees' recent decision to remove all concrete from the containment vessel (CV) prior to the final status survey is a significant departure from that which is currently described in the LTP. Consequently, the NRC staff explained that the LTP will need to be revised to include the new survey units and related characterization data specific to the exposed inside surface of the CV liner. In addition, the NRC staff emphasized that the licensee needs to demonstrate that all CV liner surfaces hidden behind the to be installed steel support structure comply with the release criteria.

Issues concerning the recent provision of the Phase 1, 2, and 3 characterization data for the site were next discussed. The NRC staff raised concern that the additional characterization data provided (e.g., intake/discharge tunnels, structures, and land/water areas) included minimal or no specific TRU/HTDN data for survey units. Such information is needed to assess the nature and extent of contamination in the survey units, considering that the site operated with failed MOX fuel assemblies. The licensees indicated that additional TRU/HTDN data was available and that it would be provided to the NRC staff for review. The NRC staff also asked that all maps clearly indicate the boundaries of the survey units for the grounds as opposed to the current way of showing only area classifications. The licensees agreed to revise the maps as necessary to address this concern in order that the NRC staff could evaluate the design of the final status survey for each survey unit. The NRC staff and licensees agreed to continue discussing the adequacy of the Phase 1, 2, and 3 characterization data at future public meetings. Finally, issues concerning the consistency of survey unit classification (e.g., intake tunnel and weir outfall) and the content of the final status survey report will also be addressed at these upcoming meetings.

It was agreed that additional meetings would be needed and that separate meetings in the areas of pathways analysis and health physics issues would be scheduled for the near future (a meeting to further discuss pathway analysis issues has been scheduled for May 8, 2002, and a meeting to discuss health physics issues has been scheduled for May 22, 2002).

/RA/

Alexander Adams, Jr., Senior Project Manager
Research and Test Reactors Section
Operating Reactor Improvements Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-146

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

cc w/attachments: Please see next page

Saxton Nuclear
Experimental Corporation

Docket No. 50-146

cc:

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LIST OF MEETING ATTENDEES

MEETING BETWEEN THE NRC STAFF AND THE SAXTON EXPERIMENTAL CORPORATION

April 8, 2002

NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
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Robert D. Holmes	Project Consultant SNEC	GPU/FE
Art Paynter	RSO/Chair and FSS Mgr.	GPU
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Pat Donmachie	GPU Consultant	GPU
Mike Williams	Saxton B.O.S.	GPUN
Jim Byrne	Mgr. D&D Engineering	GPUN
Anna Bradford	Environmental Eng.	NRC/NMSS
Michael P. Murphy	Site Rep.	PA DEP
Larry Camper	Branch Chief	NRC/NMSS/DWM/DCB
Pat Madden	Section Chief	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RORP
Claudia Craig	Section Chief	NRC/NMSS/DWM/DCB
Stewart Schneider	Health Physicist	NRC/NMSS/DWM/DCB
Jon Peckenpaugh	System Analyst	NRC/NMSS/DWM/EPAB
Sam Nalluswami	Project Manager	NRC/NMSS/DWM/DCB
Mark Thaggard	Sr. Systems Analyst	NRC/NMSS/DWM/EPAB
Ernest Fuller	Citizen	
Rodger Granlund	Independent Inspector	Penn State

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SNalluswami (NMSS)		GHill (2) (T5-C3)	SSchneider (NMSS)	

ADAMS ACCESSION NO: ML021220143

TEMPLATE #: NRC-001

*Please see previous concurrence

OFFICE	RORP:LA		RORP:PM		NMSS		RORP:SC	
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