

October 9, 2002

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 CORPORATION - REQUEST FOR  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE: CV REMOVAL LICENSE AMENDMENT  
(TAC NO. MB5029)

Dear Mr. Kuehn:

We are continuing our review of your amendment request for Amended Facility License No. DPR-4 for the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation Facility which you submitted on April 22, 2002. During our review of your amendment request, questions have arisen for which we require additional information and clarification. Please provide responses to the enclosed request for additional information within 30 days of the date of this letter. In accordance with 10 CFR 50.30(b), your response must be executed in a signed original under oath or affirmation. Following receipt of the additional information, we will continue our evaluation of your amendment request.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact me at (301) 415-1127.

Sincerely,

*/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

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/enclosure: See next page

Saxton Nuclear  
Experimental Corporation

Docket No. 50-146

cc:

Mr. Michael P. Murphy  
Bureau of Radiation Protection  
Department of Environmental Protection  
13th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office  
Building  
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: Judy Burket  
707 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Saxton, PA 16678

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

Mrs. Alexa Cook, Chairman  
Huntingdon County Commissioners  
County Court House  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Saxton Community Library  
P.O. Box 34  
Saxton, PA 16678

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

Hopewell Township - Huntingdon County  
Supervisors  
ATTN: Reba Fouse, 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

Mr. James J. Byrne  
Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating  
Station  
P.O. Box 480  
Middletown, PA 17057

Mr. Robert F. Saunders  
First Energy Corp.  
76 South Main Street  
Akron, OH 44308

Ms. Mary E. O'Reilly  
First Energy Legal Department  
76 South Main Street  
Akron, OH 44308

Mr. Manuel Delgado  
2799 Battlefield Road  
Fishers Hill, VA 22626

Mr. Eric Blocher  
216 Logan Avenue  
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Mr. David Sokolsky  
1000 King Salmon Avenue  
Eureka, CA 95503

Mr. Gene Baker  
501 16th Street  
Saxton, PA 16678

Mr. Dick Spargo  
1004 Main Street  
Saxton, PA 16678

Mr. Mark E. Warner  
AmerGen Energy Co., LLC  
P.O. Box 480  
Middletown, PA 17057

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

James Fockler, Chairman  
Saxton Citizens Task Force  
1505 Liberty Street  
Saxton, PA 16678

Dr. Rodger W. Granlund  
Saxton Independent Inspector  
Radiation Science and Engineering Center  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Breazeale Nuclear Reactor  
University Park, PA 16802-2301

Mr. Gareth McGrath  
Altoona Mirror  
301 Cayuga Avenue

Altoona, PA 16603

Dr. William Vernetson  
Director of Nuclear Facilities  
Department of Nuclear Engineering  
Sciences  
University of Florida  
202 Nuclear Sciences Center  
Gainesville, FL 32611

Mrs. Bunny Barker  
Box 143, RR 1  
James Creek, PA 16657

Mr. William Kanda

First Energy Operating Corp.  
10 Center Road  
Perry, OH 44081

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Mr. G. A. Kuehn, Jr.  
Vice President SNEC and  
Program Director SNEC Facility  
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P.O. Box 480  
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE: CV REMOVAL LICENSE AMENDMENT  
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Alexander Adams, Jr., Senior Project Manager  
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ADAMS ACCESSION NO.: ML022760277

TEMPLATE #: NRR-088

OFFICE	RORP:LA	RORP:PM	RORP:SC
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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
SAXTON NUCLEAR EXPERIMENTAL CORPORATION FACILITY  
DOCKET NO. 50-146

1. The purpose of applying the concept of exclusion area to the site was to provide security and control access to portions of the SNEF where radioactive material was located. Will portions of the SNEF be maintained as restricted or controlled areas as defined in 10 CFR Part 20 after approval of your proposed license amendment? If restricted areas will exist, and given your proposed removal from the TS of requirements on securing the exclusion area, please explain how you will limit access for the purpose of protecting individuals against undue risks from exposure to radiation and radioactive materials. Will licensed materials be located in controlled or unrestricted areas? If so, please explain how the requirements of 10 CFR Part 20, Subpart I will be met.
2. The purpose of the DSF was to facilitate the decommissioning process and allow the preparation and packaging of radioactive material for shipping. To allow removal of the CV dome, your application stated that part of the DSF would need to be removed. Where will the preparation and packaging of radioactive material be carried out after removal of the DSF? Also, when activities involving radioactive waste are conducted in the DSB, the requirements of TS 2.1.1 apply, as applicable. Will any activities involving radioactive waste after issuance of this amendment have the potential to have a measurable release as defined by the TS? If so, what ventilation requirements will apply? Please add these ventilation requirements to the TSs or justify not needing the requirements.
3. Your TSs refer to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.59. Please review these TSs to confirm that they remain applicable or propose changes to agree with the changes made to 10 CFR 50.59.
4. You have proposed removing TS 1.0.2, "CV secured," from the TSs. While the definition is not directly used in the TSs, TS 3.2.1, to which you have proposed no changes, places requirements on the initial CV entry of the day which is assumed to bring the CV out of a secured status. TS 3.2.2 also discusses CV entry, however, you have proposed removing CV entry from this TS. The reason given for removing CV entry from proposed TS 3.2.2 is that with removal of the upper half of the CV, there will no longer be an entry to control. Please discuss if an inconsistency exists between TSs 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 and if an inconsistency exists, please address. While the staff agrees if the CV has been removed, there cannot be entries into the CV, will there be any control of CV entries after issuance of the proposed TSs but before CV removal begins and during CV removal?
5. Your proposed TS refers to the use of "appropriate ventilation" during activities involving removal of the upper half of the CV. Please clarify what you mean by appropriate ventilation and how will the decision be made that an approach to ventilation is appropriate.

6. At some point after issuance of you proposed amendment, parts of the DSF will be removed and removal of the CV dome start. At this point, the inside of the DSF and CV will be exposed to the environment. What levels of removable contamination will exist on the inside of the CV at that point? Is it possible that wind or rainfall could transport this radioactive material out of the CV? What would be the impact of this transport?
7. Please provide survey information on radiation levels on the operating floor level of the CV after backfilling and isolation activities are complete.