

October 31, 2002

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

FACILITY: Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility (SNEF)

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

On August 29, 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 1 is a list of meeting attendees. Attachment 2 are the slides used by the licensees during the meeting. The licensees gave the NRC staff information at the meeting. A table of off-site laboratory analyses for transuranic and hard to detect radionuclides (1994 to present), a table of initial classification of site areas (Table 5-2), and three figures, "Grout Sheeting and Well Location Plan," "Anchor Bolt Installation Plan," and "Containment Vessel, Sectional View" have been placed in ADAMS under accession number ML022950368.

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 (RAIs). This meeting was scheduled to discuss final issues associated with the licensees submitting an update of the LTP to the NRC and NRC plans for confirming the licensees' final status survey. The technical discussions included site groundwater, health physics, and dose modeling. The discussions with the licensees' technical staff and consultants provided clarification and a better understanding of the site specific technical data and related information.

All groundwater issues pertaining to the LTP have been resolved. This was accomplished by utilizing the licensees' responses to RAI 1 and RAI 3, (both the original and the supplemental); a public meeting on August 6, 2001; and the radiological analytical results from the NRC groundwater confirmatory sampling for the April 2002 groundwater sampling event.

The licensees need to incorporate their responses to the RAIs, the radiological analytical results from the groundwater sampling events, and other appropriate hydrogeological data into their revised LTP. The licensees should update the text, tables, figures, and calculations in the LTP where these items have been replaced by more current analysis and data.

In the area of health physics, the licensees discussed the classification of the containment vessel (CV) saddle area and other site areas, and the use of classification buffer areas between the non-impacted area under the CV and adjoining impacted areas. The licensees provided site maps (referenced above) showing the CV anchor bolt, grout, sheeting, and well locations, and related gamma scan data for these areas. The licensees also explained their approach for the conduct of the subsurface final status survey for land areas to be included in the revised (LTP). In response, the NRC staff noted that the LTP needed to clearly state, using both figures and text, the locations and classifications of all impacted and non-impacted areas for the outer surfaces of the CV liner and adjacent surface/sub-surface land areas. According to the licensees, radiological surveys of all surfaces to be covered by the internal CV support rings were recently done before the rings were welded in place. These surveys will be used to support the determination that these CV liner areas, now covered, meet the release criteria.

Regarding outstanding health physics related issues, the NRC staff discussed the "LTP RAI Status" table (provided by the licensees in the letter dated August 20, 2002, ADAMS accession number ML022410195) which summarized the status of RAI questions and subsequent issues discussed at public meetings. The NRC staff concluded that the outstanding health physics issues had now been resolved (exclusive of affirming the final DCGL set) and reiterated that the review of the revised LTP would confirm that required changes were made as agreed to by the licensees.

In the area of dose modeling, the NRC staff still needs a correct, updated list of the volumetric DCGL values that the licensees will propose for demonstrating compliance with the 25 mrem dose limit. The DCGL values proposed by the licensees for Am-241, H-3, Pu-238, Pu-239, and Pu-241 during the meeting do not reflect the most limiting or restrictive values. The more limiting values for these isotopes, based upon the licensees' analysis, should be derived using the all-pathways analysis, subsurface bedrock analysis.

Assuming that the licensees propose to use the most limiting or restrictive DCGL values (as discussed above), the NRC staff does not need any further information to resolve the dose modeling issues. It was noted that the NRC staff has identified a number of shortcomings with the approach used by the licensees to develop their DCGL values; however, these only appear to have an effect of making the proposed DCGL values more conservative than required. The NRC staff intends to document these shortcomings in the Safety Evaluation Report.

The NRC staff indicated that certain information needs to be put in the LTP update to close out questions 2 and 3 of RAI #2.

The licensees confirmed that there will be no remaining embedded pipes (i.e., above the surface) at the conclusion of decommissioning.

The NRC inspector for Saxton generally discussed NRC 's plans for confirming the licensees' final status survey results. The NRC would use contractor assistance as needed and would coordinate the timing of inspection activities with the licensees. The licensees discussed conducting some final survey activities before NRC approval of the LTP. The NRC staff had no objection to the licensees proposed actions. However, the licensees took on the risk, because

the LTP is not approved yet, that aspects of the LTP could change during the remainder of the review and approval process, that their completed activities would not be in agreement with the approved LTP. The licensees acknowledged that they understood the risks.

*/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: As stated

cc w/attachments: Please 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

**MEETING BETWEEN THE NRC STAFF AND  
THE SAXTON EXPERIMENTAL CORPORATION**

**August 29, 2002**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Al Adams	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RORP
Tom Dragoun	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RORP
Larry Camper	NRC/NMSS/DWM
Pat Madden	NRC/NRR/DRIP/RORP
G.A. Kuehn	FENOC/SNEC DECOM.
Pat Donnachie	FENOC/SNEC DECOM.
Barry Brosen	FENOC/SNEC DECOM.
Robert D. Holmes	FENOC/SNEC D&D Eng.
Art F. Paynter	FENOC/RSO/Mgr. FSS
Jon M. Peckenpaugh	NRC/NMSS/DWM/EPAB
Stewart Schneider	NRC/NMSS/DWM/DCB
Mark Thaggard	NRC/NMSS/DWM/EPAB
James Byrne	FENOC/SNEC DECOM.
Sam Nalluswami	NRC/NMSS/DWM/DCB
Rodger Granlund	Independent Inspector
Ernest Fuller	Concerned Citizens for SNEC Safety

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***/RA/***

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Operating Reactor Improvements Program  
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OFFICE	RORP:LA	RORP:PM	NMSS	RORP:SC
NAME	EHylton:rdr	AAdams	SNalluswami	PMadden
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