



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 12, 1996

LICENSEE: Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation (SNEC)

50-146

FACILITY: Saxton Nuclear Facility

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING BETWEEN SNEC AND THE NRC STAFF

On January 16, 1996, representatives of the NRC staff were briefed by the licensee on the proposed Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility (SNEF) decommissioning plan (DP), the results of characterization studies at the site, future work at the site and other licensing issues. A list of attendees is provided in Enclosure 1. Briefing material provided by the licensee is provided in Enclosure 2.

The licensee updated the NRC staff on repairs that are being made to the containment liner to correct a breach that occurred during characterization activities. The licensee planned to apply additional grout to the area. If the grout shows no signs of leakage, then concrete will be used to complete repairs. The licensee stated that a letter will be submitted to NRC when all corrective actions associated with the event are completed.

The licensee discussed plans to not replace the reactor compartment shield plugs after the completion of characterization activities. In reply to a request for additional information from the NRC staff during evaluation of the license amendment request that authorized characterization activities at the site, the licensee had said that the plugs would be replaced at the end of characterization activities. The licensee now states that the plugs are not needed for shielding due to lower than expected radiation levels in the reactor compartment and because access to the compartment is controlled with steel plates. In reply to a question from the NRC staff, the licensee stated that they have not performed an evaluation of this change. The Saxton project manager stated that NRC would require additional information from the licensee before a decision on replacing the shielding plugs after characterization activities are completed with the steel plates could be made.

The licensee discussed the contents of the DP and the assumptions that went into the formulation of the DP (see Enclosure 2). The licensee stated that the DP would be submitted in early February. The licensee is planning to remove the reactor vessel as one piece. They stated that the vessel filled with grout would weigh about 100 tons and that this amount of weight is routinely transported. The plan also contains information based on proposed changes to the regulations that are under review. The NRC staff reminded the licensee that activities based on the DP would have to follow the regulations in place at the time of DP approval. The licensee has estimated that the occupational exposure during decommissioning will be approximately 35 person-rem.

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The licensee presented results of characterization studies that have been completed to date (see Enclosure 2). Occupational exposure during characterization activities is about 2 person-rem. The majority of the radioactive material remaining on site is in the reactor vessel.

The licensee discussed future work activities at the site (see Enclosure 2). The licensee has divided the activities into work that the licensee believes can be done under the existing technical specifications and work that requires an amendment to the license. The staff replied that further consideration of the licensee's presentation would be needed before any comments could be made on future activities at the site.

The licensee completed their presentation with a time line of events for decommissioning. The NRC staff noted that they will give their best effort to support the licensee's requested time line.

Original signed by:

Alexander Adams Jr., Senior Project Manager
Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning
Project Directorate
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-146

Enclosures:
As stated

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EHylton
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NRC Participants
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Region I

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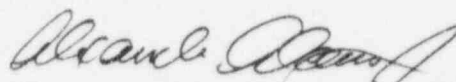
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MEETING BETWEEN THE NRC STAFF AND SAXTON

JANUARY 16, 1996

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