

July 10, 1997

Mr. G. A. Kuehn, Jr.
Program Director SNEC Facility
GPU Nuclear, Inc.
2574 Interstate Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17110

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (TAC NO. M97155)

Dear Mr. Kuehn:

We are continuing our review of your amendment request for Amended Facility License No. DPR-4 for the GPU Nuclear, Inc., and Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation, Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility. 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,

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

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Program Director SNEC Facility
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alexander Adams, Jr.".

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

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cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Saxton Nuclear
Experimental Corporation

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Page 1 of 2

cc:

Mr. William P. Dornsife, Director
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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8469

Mr. Jim Tydeman
1402 Wall Street
Saxton, Pennsylvania 16678

Mr. James H. Elder, Chairman
Concerned Citizens for SNEC Safety
Wall Street Ext.
Saxton, Pennsylvania 16678

Mr. Ernest Fuller
R. D. #1
Six Mile Run, Pennsylvania 16679

Saxton Borough Council
ATTN: Peggy Whited, Secretary
9th and Spring Streets
Saxton, Pennsylvania 16678

Ms. Norma Ickes, Chair
Bedford County Commissioners
County Court House
203 South Juliana Street
Bedford, Pennsylvania 15522

Mr. Larry Sather, Chairman
Huntingdon County Commissioners
County Court House
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania 16652

Saxton Community Library
Front Street
Saxton, Pennsylvania 16678

Mr. Arthur Rone
Vice President Nuclear
Safety and Technical Services
GPU Nuclear Inc.
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Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

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

Hopewell Township Supervisors
ATTN: Sally Giornesto,
Secretary
RR 1 Box 95
James Creek, Pennsylvania 16657-9512

Mr. D. Bud McIntyre, Chairman
Broad Top Township Supervisors
Broad Top Municipal Building
Defiance, Pennsylvania 16633

Mr. Don Weaver, Chairman
Liberty Township Supervisors
R. D. #1
Saxton, Pennsylvania 16678

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
ATTN: S. Snarski/P. Juhle
P. O. Box 1715
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

The Honorable Robert C. Jubelirer
President Pro-Temp Senate of
Pennsylvania
30th District
State Capitol
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Mr. William G. Heysek
Licensing Department
TMI Nuclear Station
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Middletown, Pennsylvania 17057

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

Mr. Eric Blocher
216 Logan Avenue
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Ernest L. Blake, Jr., Esquire
Shaw, Pittman, Potts, and
Trowbridge
2300 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Saxton Nuclear
Experimental Corporation

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cc:

Mr. David Soloksky
30 Russell Street
San Francisco, California 94109

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

Mr. Dick Spargo
1004 Main Street
Saxton, Pennsylvania 16678

Mr. Tom Strnad
TLG Services
148 New Milford Road East
Bridgewater, Connecticut 06752

Mr. Gareth McGrath
Altoona Mirror
301 Cayuga Avenue
Altoona, Pennsylvania 16603

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
SAXTON NUCLEAR EXPERIMENTAL FACILITY
DOCKET NO. 50-146

1. Your answer number 1 of May 30, 1997, discussed the containment vessel (CV)/decommissioning support building (DSB) ventilation system. This system acts as an engineered safety feature (ESF) in that credit was taken for operation of the system in the decommissioning accident analysis. Because of this, we require greater detail on the design and operation of the system than was given in your answer. Please provide detailed information on the design of the system including system diagrams. For example, how was the system capacity and stack height determined? Please provide additional detail of the operation of the system. For example, how will the system be operated to ensure a controlled air release path when the CV or DSB are opened for component removal? Will system performance be affected by the method used to reseal the CV after component removal? Do you plan to add a section concerning this ESF to the Updated Safety Analysis Report (USAR)?
2. In your proposed definitions, you have defined the terms exclusion area, site boundary, and unrestricted area. Please compare your definitions with those in 10 CFR Parts 20 and 100. Is there any relation to the term "restricted area" as defined in 10 CFR Part 20? Discuss how you will ensure that no members of the public enter your defined "site boundary" without your knowledge or permission. Explain how unrestricted areas can exist within the site boundary.
3. To allow flexibility, the concept was developed that allowed the exclusion area to change size dependent on need as long as the exclusion area remained at least the minimum size shown in Figure 1 of the Technical Specifications (TSs) and extended no further than the security fence. Part of this concept was posting at the site what constituted the exclusion area at a particular point in time. Please include this in your proposed definition of exclusion area.
4. In answer number 15 of your letter of May 30, 1997, you state that you will continue the practice of conducting an initial radiological survey at each initial entry after the CV is secured. Your proposed TS states that a radiological survey will be performed if the CV has been secured for a period greater than 24 hours. Please explain this apparent inconsistency. Also, considering the increase in activities that will accompany dismantling of the CV, please justify not conducting a radiological survey at the initial entry into the CV for the day.
5. In answer number 16 of your letter of May 30, 1997, you discuss the reasoning for having a Radiation Safety Officer or a Group Radiological Controls Supervisor present for radioactive waste management activities. However, your current TS B.1.c.2 addresses entry and/or maintenance or characterization activities within the CV. You are proposing eliminating this wording. Please justify this change.

6. In answer number 19 of your letter of May 30, 1997, you proposed modified wording for TS 3.5.1.5. However, your updated TSs submitted with your letter does not included the modified wording. Please correct your proposed TSs.

You also discussed amending your USAR but did not indicate when this would be accomplished. Because your proposed TSs are dependent on the USAR, please submit the amended USAR.

7. In answer number 26 of your letter of May 30, 1997, you proposed scheduling meetings quarterly and holding meetings three times per year. The TS should only focus on the requirement for holding meetings with wording that ensures that the meetings will be held at a regular interval throughout the year.
8. In answer number 33 of your letter of May 30, 1997, you state that if a process control program is needed, either a previously approved NRC process control program (PCP) will be used or a new program will be submitted to NRC. Please add to this TS a requirement to submit the PCP to NRC for approval before use at Saxton. This would also pertain to a previously approved program to ensure that the program is applicable to activities at Saxton.