

SAXTON NUCLEAR EXPERIMENTAL CORPORATION GENERAL PUBLIC UTILITIES SYSTEM

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July 24, 1989
C301-89-2015
SNEC-89-0065

Dr. Ronald R. Bellamy, Chief
Facilities Radiological Safety
and Safeguards Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Dr. Bellamy:

Saxton Nuclear Facility
Operating License No. DPR-4
Docket No. 50-146
Aerial vs. Ground-based Radiological Soil Survey

We are in receipt of your letter of June 27, 1989, which responded to our letter of May 22, 1989. The purpose of this letter is to provide the confirmation you requested concerning the radiological aerial overflight survey.

The radiological aerial overflight survey being conducted by the EG&G Aerial Measurements Laboratory is the most sophisticated and sensitive environmental tool available to perform the radiological survey of the Saxton Facility and surrounding area. The specially equipped helicopter used for this task is the only one of its kind. The low-level flight paths used in this survey - 100 feet above the surface - will enable the detection of two (2) millicuries of radionuclides above background per square kilometer. In addition, detailed multiple mapping of data will be performed by EG&G based on the results of this overflight. Contour maps depicting radiation dose rate, Cesium 137 concentrations and the concentrations of other man-made radioisotopes will be produced from the overflight data. Also, the aerial overflight will not encounter the same physical obstacles that a ground-based survey would, such as trees or private property boundaries. It should also be noted that the aerial

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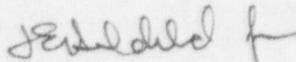
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overflight will cover a much larger area than that which would have been covered by the ground-based survey. The report resulting from the aerial overflight will include survey data, maps and specific information such as the estimated depth of penetration in various geologic materials.

SNEC/GPUN management believes that the data and maps which will result from the aerial overflight will provide much more useful information than that which would have been obtained from the previously proposed ground-based radiological survey.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. John Auger at (201) 316-7966.

Sincerely,



R. W. Heward, Jr.
President

RWH/JCA/cg

cc: A. Adams - NRC
C. Cowgill - NRC
W. Pasciak - NRC
F. Young - NRC