

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

September 14, 1959

Honorable John A. McCone
Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D.C.

Subject: THE SAXTON REACTOR

Dear Mr. McCone:

At its nineteenth meeting, September 10-12, 1959, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards considered the Saxton Reactor for a construction permit. The Preliminary Hazards Summary Report was the basis of discussion with the Hazards Evaluation Branch and the licensee.

This is to be a 20 MW (thermal) light water moderated and cooled, pressurized water (2000 psi) reactor operated primarily for research and development with steam supplied, incidentally, to an existing 10 MW turbine generator. It is proposed to conduct the experimental program over a five-year period, culminating in a series of nuclear superheat experiments.

The site of 150 acres is located in south central Pennsylvania, halfway between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, about three-fourths of a mile from the Borough of Saxton. The Saxton station of the Pennsylvania Electric Company, a 50 MW (e) coal fired steam generating plant (one 30 MW, two 10 MW turbine generators) is now located on the site. Because of favorable meteorology, topography, geology, hydrology and low population density, it is the Committee's opinion there is reasonable assurance that a reactor of this general type can be constructed and operated at this site without undue hazard to the health and safety of the public.

A preliminary presentation of the planned research program was made. Evaluation of this program must be deferred pending more detailed studies of all phases of design and operation.

Sincerely yours,

C. Rogers McCullough
Chairman

cc: A.R.Luedecke, GM
H.L.Price, DL&R

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References

- 1) Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation Application for Reactor Construction Permit and Operating License -- Part B - Preliminary Hazards Summary Report (received by AEC July 1959).
- 2) Division of Licensing and Regulation Report to AEC on The Saxton Reactor, August 20, 1959.
- 3) U. S. Weather Bureau Comments on Part B, "Preliminary Hazards Summary Report, Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation, August 19, 1959.