

January 9, 2002

Mr. G. A. Kuehn, Jr.
Vice President SNEC and
Program Director SNEC Facility
GPU Nuclear, Inc.
Route 441 South
P.O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057-0480

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PLAN CHANGES FOR THE SAXTON NUCLEAR
EXPERIMENTAL CORPORATION FACILITY (TAC NO. MB3164)

Dear Mr. Kuehn:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your letter dated October 1, 2001, which transmitted a change to the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation (SNEC) Facility Emergency Response Procedure and Emergency Plan submitted under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.54(q).

The plan change involved the removal of a Containment Vessel (CV) Sump High-Level Alarm. You identified this change as a decrease in the effectiveness of the emergency plan. This alarm was designed to provide indication of leakage into the CV during the time period when the CV was sealed. The CV had been sealed since the plant was closed until the start of the current decommissioning phase. As part of the decommissioning effort, the concrete in the CV is being removed as well as the alarm system and all energized electrical equipment.

The staff has reviewed the circumstances surrounding the removal of the alarm system and physical condition of the facility and believes that with the removal of radiologically contaminated components and decontamination of concrete, this alarm is no longer needed given the small amount of radioactive material remaining in the CV. However, you propose to continue performing visual inspections whenever the CV is entered. Furthermore, any leakage that would occur would be into the CV and would not cause any offsite radiological releases. Based upon our review, we conclude that with the current status of decommissioning this change will not decrease the effectiveness of the Emergency Plan and the revised Emergency Plan will continue to meet the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1127.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Alexander Adams, Jr., Senior Project Manager
Non-Power Reactors Section
Operating Reactor Improvements
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-146

cc: Please see next page

Saxton Nuclear
Experimental Corporation

Docket No. 50-146

cc:

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Saxton Borough Council
ATTN: Peggy Whited, Secretary
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Saxton, PA 16678

Mr. David J. Thompson, Chair
Bedford County Commissioners
County Court House
203 South Juliana Street
Bedford, PA 15522

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

Saxton Community Library
Front Street
Saxton, PA 16678

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ATTN: Penny Brode, Secretary
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Saxton, PA 16678

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ATTN: Sally Giornesto, 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
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Sincerely,

/RA/

Alexander Adams, Jr., Senior Project Manager
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Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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cc: Please see next page
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