



SAXTON NUCLEAR EXPERIMENTAL CORPORATION

GENERAL PUBLIC UTILITIES SYSTEM

Jersey Central Power & Light Company
Pennsylvania Electric Company
Metropolitan Edison Company

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April 5, 1993

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen,

Subject: Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation
Operating License No. DPR-4
Docket No. 50-146
Performance of Periodic Inspections

The purpose of this letter is to provide a written follow-up to a telephone notification of a failure to perform the nuclear radiation monitoring inspection "no less than quarterly" as required by Saxton Technical Specification (TS) B.4.a. The deficiency was identified by Quality Assurance during discussions with the SNEC Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) responsible for scheduling and performing the inspections.

The failure to perform the inspection at the appropriate frequency was caused by the RSO's incorrect interpretation of the performance frequency. The interpretation provided schedular flexibility during the winter months to minimize the impact of inclement weather on travel to the site and performance of the inspection. As a result, the performance span between the last inspection in 1992 and the first quarterly inspection of 1993 exceeded five months. Quality Deficiency Report (QDR) 932006 was written to document the deficiency. Immediate corrective action was taken to complete the inspection on March 4, 1993: within a week of the identification of the deficiency.

The telecon with the Saxton NRC Project Engineer on March 2, 1993 served to give notice of the TS violation and obtain guidance on the definition of "quarterly" as appropriate for the situation at Saxton. The definition provided is based on research reactor time interval definitions and is defined as "not to exceed four months" and "should average out to 90 days."

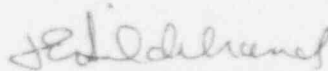
Since the radiological conditions at the site and within the containment building are static, the safety significance of this TS violation is minimal. The water collecting in containment, as a result of the building "breathing" with barometric pressure changes, collects at a relatively consistent rate.

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Immediate corrective action efforts were directed toward and resulted in completion of the overdue periodic inspection on March 4, 1993. No abnormal conditions were identified after evaluation of the data collected during the inspection. Corrective actions to prevent recurrence of the TS violation include scheduling and performing future inspections in accordance with the "90 not to exceed 120 day" frequency guidance.

Sincerely,



J. E. Hildebrand
President

WGH

cc: Administrator, Region I
NRC Project Engineer NRR
NRC Project Engineer, Region I