

Majority Leader

30TH DISTRICT
ROBERT C. JUBELIRER
309 EAST PLANK ROAD, REAR
P. O. BOX 2023
ALTOONA, PA 16603
814 942-3495

THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120
717 787-5490



COMMITTEES

RULES, CHAIRMAN
APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

REPLY TO:

Senate of Pennsylvania

June 24, 1983

Mr. Karl Abraham
Public Affairs Officer
Region 1
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Mr. Abraham:

In June of 1982, my research assistant, Diane Confino contacted you regarding the dismantling of the Saxton reactor in Saxton, Pennsylvania. Since that time, a number of meetings have been held in Saxton between residents and GPU officials regarding this matter. Understandably, many of the local people are fearful of the proposed dismantling process and the effect it will have on their community.

Adding to these fears was the recently publicized NRC investigation into alleged falsification of TMI records. Questions on the integrity and ability of GPU management has stirred a great deal of concern in Saxton, as the GPU is to handle this dismantling project.

I believe correspondence from NRC officials to the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation explaining the details of this matter may clarify some uncertainties and put these individuals at ease.

Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert C. Jubelirer".

ROBERT C. JUBELIRER
SENATOR, 30TH DISTRICT

RCJ:jeg

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PDR ADOCK 05000146
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For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Domenic B. Vassallo,

*Chief, Operating Reactors Branch No. 2,
Division of Licensing.*

[PR Doc. 83-11764 Filed 5-2-83; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

[Docket No. 50-146]

**General Public Utilities System;
Establishment of Local Public
Document Room**

Notice is hereby given that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has officially established a local public document room (LPDR) for General Public Utilities System's Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility at the Saxton Community Library, Saxton, Pennsylvania.

Members of the public may now inspect and copy documents and correspondence related to the decommissioning of the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility at the Saxton Community Library, 911 Church Street, Saxton, PA 18678. The hours of operation of the Saxton Community Library are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm, Thursday, 12:00 noon-4:00 pm and 7:00 pm-8:30 pm, and Sunday, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm.

For further information interested parties in the Saxton area may contact the LPDR directly through Ms. Lila Pennell, Librarian, telephone number (814) 635-3533. Parties outside the service area of the LPDR may address their requests for records to the NRC's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20555, telephone number (202) 634-3273. The cost of ordering records from the NRC Public Document Room is 5¢ per page, plus postage and handling.

Questions concerning the availability of documents at the Saxton LPDR and the NRC's local public document room program in general should be addressed to Ms. Jona L. Souder, Chief, Local Public Document Room Branch, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone number, toll-free (800) 638-8081.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 26th day of April, 1983.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Joseph M. Felton,

*Director, Division of Rules and Records,
Office of Administration.*

[PR Doc. 83-11765 Filed 5-2-83; 8:46 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

[Docket No. 50-331]

Iowa Electric Light and Power Co., et al.; Exemption

I

Iowa Electric Light and Power Company, et al. (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-49 which authorizes the operation of the Duane Arnold Energy Center at steady state reactor power levels not in excess of 1658 megawatts thermal. The facility consists of a boiling water reactor located at the licensee's site near Palo in Linn County, Iowa. The license provides, among other things, that it is subject to all rules, regulations and Orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

II

Section 50.48 of 10 CFR Part 50 requires that licensed operating reactors be subject to the requirements of Appendix R of 10 CFR Part 50. Appendix R contains the general and specific requirements for fire protection programs at licensed nuclear facilities. On February 17, 1981, the fire protection rule for nuclear power plants, 10 CFR 50.48 and Appendix R, became effective. This rule required all licensees of plants licensed prior to January 1, 1979, to submit by March 19, 1981: (1) plans and schedules for meeting the applicable requirements of Appendix R, (2) a design description of any modifications proposed to provide alternative safe shutdown capability pursuant to Paragraph II.G.3 of Appendix R, and (3) exemption requests for which the tolling provision of § 50.48(c)(6) was to be invoked.

The licensee responded to these requirements by letter dated March 19, 1981, and supplemented its response by information contained in letters dated July 3, 1981, and June 22, 1982.

In these submittals, the licensee requested certain exemptions from the requirements of Section III.G of Appendix R to 10 CFR Part 50. Section III.G of Appendix R requires that one train of cables and equipment necessary to achieve and maintain safe shutdown be maintained free of fire damage by one of the following means:

a. Separation of cables and equipment and associated non-safety circuits of redundant trains by a fire barrier having a 3-hour rating. Structural steel forming a part of or supporting such fire barriers shall be protected to provide fire resistance equivalent to that required of the barrier;

b. Separation of cables and equipment and associated non-safety circuits of redundant trains by a horizontal

distance of more than 20 feet with no intervening combustibles or fire hazards. In addition, fire detectors and an automatic fire suppression system shall be installed in the fire area; or

c. Enclosure of cables and equipment and associated non-safety circuits of one redundant train in a fire barrier having a 1-hour rating. In addition, fire detectors and an automatic fire suppression system shall be installed in the fire area.

If these conditions are not met, Section III.G.3 requires alternative shutdown capability independent of the fire area of concern.

1. The licensee requested an exemption from the provisions of Section III.G of Appendix R for the reactor building torus area (fire zone 1-A) to the extent that it requires automatic fire detection and fire suppression throughout the fire area to protect redundant trains of safe shutdown related cables and equipment.

The licensee justified the exemption by stating that, with the exception of the redundant cables in the northwest half of the area, the separation distance between all other division one and division two cables in conjunction with the low combustible loading in the area reduces the probability of a fire causing damage to both trains. The licensee further contends that due to the low quantity of combustibles in the area, a potential fire could not be expected to propagate beyond the area of ignition.

Where redundant cables are located in close proximity, one-hour rated fire barriers, fire detections, and automatic suppression will be installed to provide the level of safety mandated by Appendix R.

We have reviewed the licensee's submittal and agree with the licensee's evaluation that the area does not comply with Section III.G because automatic fire detection and fire suppression is not available throughout the area. However, we find that the proposed means of protection and low quantity of combustibles in the area and the space between redundant components provides reasonable assurance that safe shutdown related cables will be maintained free of fire damage.

Therefore, we conclude that with the proposed modifications, the level of safety provided in the torus area will be equivalent to the technical requirements of Section III.G.2 of Appendix R and the licensee's request should be granted.

2. The licensee has requested an exemption from the provisions of Section III.G of Appendix R for the