

DATE August 17, 1983

FROM: Bud Shuster, M. C.  
Room 2455, Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

TO: Congressional Liaison  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H St., N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20555

NAME OF SUBJECT	Mr. James Elder
SS OR OTHER CLAIM #	Saxton, Pennsylvania
ADDRESS	Mr. Kenneth Hoover
	Hopewell, PA

PROBLEM:

Both Mr. Elder and Mr. Hoover recently met with me to express their concerns over plans to dismantle the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation facility in Saxton, Pennsylvania. It is their understanding that the original dismantling plan called for this action to be taken in the year 2023, and they have no desire to have this speeded up. These gentlemen are very concerned that there will not be adequate inspection and adequate safeguards set up for the dismantling of this plant. I would appreciate at your earliest convenience a status report on this situation. Thank you for your cooperation.

NOTE: See previous correspondence dated 6/28/82 regarding the SNEC.  
/cm

No. 2184 Logging Date 8/18/83

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO: ☐ Commissioner ☒ Exec. Dir./Oper. ☐ Cong. Liaison ☐ Public Affairs ☐ Secretary ☐ Inspector & Auditor ☐ Policy Evaluation

Incoming: Rep. Bud Shuster Date 8/17/83

From: Constituent referral from James Elder & Kenneth Hooper

To: OCA Date 8/17/83

Subject: Requests information on safety of decommissioning of Saxton reactor

☐ Prepare reply for signature of:

☐ Chairman

☐ Commissioner

☐ EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY, IA, PE

☐ Signature block omitted

☐

☐ Return original of incoming with response

☒ For direct reply\*

Suspense: Sept. 1

☐ For appropriate action

☐ For information

Remarks: OCA to Ack.

For the Commission: Combs

\*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Correspondence and Records Branch

Rec'd Off. EDO

Date: 8/19/83

Time: 8:44 AM

ACTION SLIP

NRC FORM 62A

FROM: Rep. Bud Shuster

TO: OCA

DESCRIPTION: ☒ LETTER ☐ MEMO ☐ REPORT ☐ OTHER

CONSTITUENT referral from James Elder and Kenneth Hoover requesting information on decommissioning of Saxton reactor

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS: EDO-11997

ASSIGNED TO: Denton, RRR DATE: 8/19/83 INFORMATION ROUTING: 6. Grace

Eisenhut 8/19/83 7. Snyder

1. PPAS

2. Speis

3. Mattson

4. Vollmer

5. Thompson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

June 14 19 82

Congressional Liaison  
Nuclear Regulatory Comm.  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Sir:

The attached communication  
is sent for your consideration.  
Please investigate the statements  
contained therein and forward me  
the necessary information for re-  
ply, returning the enclosed corre-  
spondence with your answer.

Yours truly,

BUD SHUSTER

Carol--225-2431 M. C.  
Mr. James Elder  
Saxton, PA

~~8206130012~~

Wall St. Ext.  
Saxton, Pa. 16678  
(814) 635-3492

April 14, 1982

Rep. Clarence Dietz  
House of Representatives  
Harrisburg, Pa.

Dear Representative Dietz,

About a month ago, Penelec announced plans to dismantle the nuclear reactor containment building at the site of the former Saxton Nuclear Experimental (SNEC) operation.

I believe this to be very unwise. When SNEC ceased operation, the vessel was to be sealed for a minimum of 50 years, possibly longer, depending on the intensity of the radiation at that time. Now, after only 10 years, they are planning to open it up to the atmosphere.

Both SNEC and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission have been considerably less than honest with local residents in the past so how can we trust them now with regard to the risk, or lack of risk, involved in the dismantling process.

Keep in mind that Tussey Mountain High School lies only  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile downwind with about 600 young, growing, children and youth in attendance. This is the most susceptible age for radiation induced cancers. The area around the reactor presently has a 4-5 times greater than normal leukemia incidence. SNEC has exposed us to radiation in the past. Don't let it happen again! Please help us to keep it sealed!

Very truly yours,

*James H. Elder*  
James H. Elder

JE/je



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

EDO 1194

Docket No.: 50-146

JUN 28 1982

The Honorable Bud Shuster  
United States House  
of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shuster:

In correspondence dated June 14, 1982, you requested that we provide information to you for your response to a letter from Mr. James H. Elder of Saxton, Pennsylvania on the Saxton reactor which has been shutdown since May 1, 1972. Mr. Elder was concerned in particular about plans to dismantle the nuclear reactor containment building.

Since its shutdown, the Saxton reactor has been maintained in a safe storage, mothballed mode consistent with NRC decommissioning regulations and Regulatory Guide 1.86, (enclosed).

To date, we have not received any correspondence from the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation (SNEC) with respect to dismantling the Saxton facility. Recent conversation with Mr. C. Montgomery of SNEC, however, indicates that SNEC has completed a study of dismantling costs and that they plan to request NRC authorization to dismantle the Saxton facility during the latter 1980's.

Prior to dismantling a reactor facility, a licensee must submit a dismantling plan to the NRC and obtain our approval. We will review this plan to determine that acceptable procedures are incorporated to protect the health and safety of the public and the environment.

One issue of concern to us in our review is that dismantling will be accomplished such that potential releases of radioactivity be adequately controlled. Reactor dismantling generally involves dismantling of the radioactive structures inside the reactor containment building prior to removal of the containment building. The containment building provides the barrier that prevents the transport of any radioactive dust into the environment that may be produced when removing the various internal reactor systems or shielding. Mr. C. Montgomery indicated that SNEC plans to dismantle the Saxton facility in the manner discussed above. In any event, the NRC will require adequate control of radioactivity during any dismantling operation.

8207150238



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Sincerely,

William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

DISTRIBUTION:

EDO  
WDircks  
6/ /82

[illegible]