

# SAXTON NUCLEAR EXPERIMENTAL CORPORATION

## GENERAL PUBLIC UTILITIES SYSTEM

JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT COMPANY  
NEW JERSEY POWER & LIGHT COMPANY  
PENNSYLVANIA ELECTRIC COMPANY  
METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY

PO BOX 99, Saxton, Pa.

P.O. Box 99, Saxton, Pa. 16678

Telephone: Area 215 329-3331

814 635-2937

February 23, 1968

Docket No. ~~50-416~~ 50-146  
License DPR-4

For Div of Compliance

Mr. Donald J. Skovholt  
Assistant Director for Reactor Operations  
Division of Reactor Licensing  
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Mr. Skovholt:

During January 1968, the Saxton reactor was being utilized for reactor operator start-up training with the primary coolant system at operating pressure and temperature and normal flow. On January 22, following completion of the day's training, the reactor was shutdown by manual scram of the control rods. Control rod No. 1, however, did not drop to its normal zero position, stopping at 2.98 inches above zero. A subsequent rod exercise program resolved the difficulty with this rod.

The difficulty experienced with No. 1 control rod was reported to the Region I Compliance Office and to Division of Reactor Licensing by telephone on January 29, and is herewith reported in writing in compliance with paragraph 3 E(1) of the Saxton Operating License DPR-4.

With the reactor shutdown, an exercise program for No. 1 control rod was initiated to resolve or further define the problem. Fifteen drops were made from 40 inches; however, on the 16th drop the rod stopped at 3.22 inches above its zero position. Following this, 14 drops were made from 40 inches, and 34 drops were made from 10 inches without difficulty. On the 35th drop from 10 inches, the rod stopped at 2.97 inches above its zero position. Rod exercise was continued for an additional 50 drops without further difficulty.

Rod withdrawal rates and drop times were measured and compared with previous data. All were normal.

IS/RNC 3-11-68

O'R 3-3-68

J.R. had seen

J.R. 3-5-68

L.R. 3-11-68

again on 7/24/68  
per J.N.  
m.l.c.



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The difficulty experienced with this rod was reviewed by the Saxton On-Site Safety Committee and by the reactor manufacturer. It was concluded that probably a small piece of foreign material was lodged in the control rod drive mechanism dashpot and that it was subsequently removed by the self-flushing action of the dashpot during the rod drops.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. R. Montgomery".

C. R. Montgomery  
General Manager

cc: G. F. Trowbridge, Esquire