

Wall St. Ext. ---  
Saxton, Pa. 16678  
(814) 635-3492  
February 17, 1983

Mr. Karl Abraham  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
631 Park Avenue  
King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

Dear Mr. Abraham,

As you probably know by now, General Public Utilities (GPU), the primary stockholder in the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corporation (SNEC), has announced that it plans to dismantle the SNEC facility. This is not welcome news to many residents of Saxton and the surrounding Broad Top area.

GPU's track record with nuclear power, both in Saxton and Three Mile Island is considerably less than sterling. Several points are of considerable concern to us: #1. It is my understanding that there has never been a privately owned, commercial reactor dismantled before, much less, one that used plutonium for fuel. Right? If not, please elaborate. If I am right, we apparently are still a part of the ongoing SNEC experiment. #2. After studying the preliminary dismantling plan by Burns and Roe, I find that there is no mention of any inspectors on the job other than those who are paid by GPU. If this is correct, it makes about as much sense as putting a fox in charge of security at the hen house. Please tell me that the NRC will have FULL TIME inspectors on the job.

I am the chairperson of Concerned Citizens for SNEC Safety. Our steering committee consists of eight members, all of which have Bachelors Degrees, four have Masters Degrees and one has a Ph.D. With credentials like this we believe that we are a force with which GPU officials will have to reckon.

In order for us to educate ourselves on the hazards, alternatives, etc., we would like you to furnish us with some information. We will appreciate any and all that you can provide for us, and more specifically: Requirements for Decommissioning found in Title 10, Part 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 50). Also: NRC Regulatory Guide 1.86 of June 1974. Also: The Dismantling Plan and the Environmental Impact Statement for the SNEC dismantling project. Also: The dismantling plan for the AEC Elk River reactor in Elk River, Minn. along with the final report on that project.

Thank you in advance for your help. Please keep me informed on any new developments pertaining to this project.

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PDR ADOCK 05000146  
H PDR

Very truly yours,

*James H. Elder*

James H. Elder, Chm.

Concerned Citizens for SNEC Safety

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

APR 15 1983

Docket No. 50-146

Mr. Ernest Fuller  
RD  
Six Mile Run, Pennsylvania 16679

Dear Mr. Fuller:

This is in response to your letter dated March 28, 1983 expressing your concern regarding the Saxton Nuclear Engineering Corporation (SNEC) reactor facility.

Since its shutdown, the SNEC facility has been maintained in a safe storage, mothballed mode consistent with our decommissioning regulations in 10 CFR 50.82 and Regulatory Guide 1.86, "Termination of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Reactors." We have not received any recent correspondence from the SNEC with respect to dismantling the SNEC facility. However, a recent conversation with a representative of SNEC indicates that they have completed a study of dismantling costs and that they plan to request 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 us 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 importance to us in our review is that the dismantling be accomplished in such a manner that potential releases of radioactivity will be adequately controlled. Reactor dismantling generally involves dismantling of the radioactive structures inside the reactor containment building prior to removal of the building itself. The containment building provides a principal 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. The SNEC representative indicated that they plan to dismantle the Saxton facility in the manner discussed above. In any event, we will require adequate control of radioactivity during any dismantling operation, in accordance with our mandate under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to protect the health and safety of the public.

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are required by the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 50.82) to publish a "Notice of Proposed Issuance of Order Authorizing Dismantling of Facility" in the Federal Register at least 30 days before authorizing any reactor dismantling. That notice will specifically discuss and provide for the opportunity for members of the public to enter into the proceedings. Other members of your community have also expressed concern about the completion of dismantlement of the SNEC facility, and we will add your name to the list to be sent a copy of any such notice in the event SNEC does request an authorization as discussed above.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by  
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation