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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRC, COMPANIES TO DISCUSS DECOMMISSIONING WORK AT PA. REACTOR

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Facility on Monday, October 5, to discuss the upcoming removal and shipment of large components from the permanently shutdown reactor, located near the town of Saxton in Bedford County, Pa. That work is expected to take place this fall.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. in Room 12-B-4 of the One White Flint North building at NRC headquarters, 11555 Rockville Pike in Rockville, Md. It will be open to the public for observation.

Owned by GPU Nuclear Inc. and the Saxton Nuclear Experiment Corporation, the 35-megawatt plant operated from 1962 to 1972 as a research reactor for the nuclear power industry. It is currently being decommissioned.

In April, the NRC granted a license amendment to the plant's owners allowing major decommissioning work to begin. These activities include the removal of large components -- the reactor vessel, steam generator and pressurizer -- and the dismantlement of the containment building, the domed structure that surrounds the reactor. Once removed, the large components will be shipped to a low-level radioactive waste facility for disposal.

The decommissioning of the plant is projected to cost about \$22 million and be completed in 2000.

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