Aug. 2, 2002

Ms. Phillis A. Fox 1 Three Springs Lane Unicoi, TN 37692

## SUBJECT: GAS CENTRIFUGE ENRICHMENT PLANT CONCERNS (DOCKET NO. 70-3103)

Dear Ms. Fox:

In your undated letter to me, you indicated that you oppose the siting of a uranium enrichment plant in Unicoi County, Tennessee, and requested the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to disapprove the proposed plant. As you are aware, Louisiana Energy Services (LES) is in the site selection process for siting a proposed uranium enrichment plant using gas centrifuge technology. As of today, LES has not made a site selection for this proposed plant.

Regardless of where the LES facility is ultimately sited, the NRC will be responsible for reviewing LES's license application, which we expect to receive in December 2002. In our review, we will address the protection of public health and safety of the proposed operations. We will also address any health and safety impacts due to the possible site flooding concern you raised.

The NRC's licensing process also provides several formal opportunities for public participation. These opportunities include public meetings for scoping the Environmental Impact Statement, an opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in writing and in a public meeting, and an opportunity to petition for a hearing.

Sincerely,

## /RA/

Timothy C. Johnson Senior Mechanical Systems Engineer Special Projects Section Special Projects and Inspection Branch Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Docket: 70-3103 cc: William Szymanski/DOE James Curtiss/W&S Rod Krich/Exelon Mario Robles/USEC Ms. Phillis A. Fox 1 Three Springs Lane Unicoi, TN 37692

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