



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 24, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO: Melvyn N. Leach, Chief
Special Projects and Inspection Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards

THRU: Joseph G. Giitter, Chief *JG*
Special Projects Section
Special Projects and Inspection Branch, FCSS

FROM: Timothy C. Johnson
Senior Mechanical Systems Engineer
Special Projects Section
Special Projects and Inspection Branch, FCSS

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 14, 2002, MEETING SUMMARY: LOUISIANA ENERGY
SERVICES PUBLIC INFORMATION FORUM

On October 14, 2002, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff participated in a public information forum sponsored by Trousdale County, Tennessee, to discuss the proposed Louisiana Energy Services (LES) gas centrifuge enrichment plant project planned for Hartsville, Trousdale County, Tennessee site. NRC staff made presentations on the NRC licensing process, the environmental impact statement preparation process, and the inspection program applicable to licensing and inspecting the proposed LES plant. I am attaching the meeting summary for your use. This summary contains no proprietary or classified information.

Docket: 70-3103

Attachment: Louisiana Energy Services
Meeting Summary

cc: William Szymanski/DOE
Rod Krich/Exelon
James Curtiss/W&S
Mario Robles/USEC
Jerry Clift/Trousdale
Michael Marriotte/NIRS
Ed Nanney/Tenn
George Dials/LES

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RHannah/Reg II	PHiland/Reg III	BBartlett/Reg III	DHartland/Reg III	
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DBrown	YFaraz	MChatterton	RVirgilio/OPA	
SGagner/OPA	MLeach	TPowell	Hearing file	

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*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

OFC	SPIB*		SPIB*	2E	SPIB*	
NAME	TCJohnson:dw		KValloch		JGiitter	
DATE	10/23 /02		10/ 23 /02		10/ 24 /02	

C = COVER

E = COVER & ENCLOSURE
 OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

N = NO COPY

Louisiana Energy Services Public Information Forum

Dates: October 14, 2002

Place: Trousdale County High School
Hartsville, TN

Attendees: M. Leach/NRC/FCSS
D. Collins/NRC/Region II
D. Seymour/NRC/Region II
T. Harris/NRC/DWM
L. Clark/NRC/OGC
Approximately 200 members of the public

T.C. Johnson/NRC/FCSS
G. Dials/Louisiana Energy Services (LES)
W. Richman
W. Calloway/Tennessee Environmental
Council (TEC)

Purpose:

The purpose of this meeting was to provide information to the public and respond to questions related to the proposed LES gas centrifuge enrichment plant proposed to be located in Hartsville, Trousdale County, Tennessee. The meeting was sponsored by Trousdale County. NRC presentation handouts are provided in the Attachment. Other speakers did not provide handouts.

Discussion:

The forum was facilitated by P. Hadenright. To begin the meeting, members of a panel made presentations. The panel consisted of G. Dials from LES, W. Richman, a retired engineer representing himself, W. Calloway from the TEC, and T.C. Johnson, T. Harris, and D. Collins from the NRC. Following the presentations, the public was given an opportunity to ask questions. Questions were provided in writing to the facilitator, who read them to the panel.

In his presentation, G. Dials indicated that the gas centrifuge enrichment project would bring high quality jobs to the area. He said that the plant technology is based on three gas centrifuge plants in Europe operated by Urenco, one of the partners in LES. In Europe, the plants have had no safety violations. Dials also stated that the depleted uranium tails are considered a resource and will be removed on a planned schedule.

W. Richman indicated that the design needs to be done properly. He said that the critical issues for him are effluent releases and waste issues. He suggested that the plant consider a zero liquid discharge design. He also said that there is little future commercial need for depleted uranium and suggested that depleted uranium remain on-site for no more than 90 days.

W. Calloway suggested that the public find out the facts on the proposed facility. He said that if anyone says there will be no wastes from the plant, they are incorrect. He said that the depleted uranium will be Greater-Than-Class-C (GTCC) waste. He stated that the NRC should not be making the decision on the facility, but the local people should. He ended by suggesting that there should be no expansion of nuclear energy and people should be looking to other means.

T.C. Johnson, T. Harris, and D. Collins then presented information of the NRC licensing process, the environmental review process, and NRC's inspection program. T.C. Johnson indicated that NRC is an independent regulatory agency responsible for ensuring public and worker health and safety. NRC is, therefore, not a promoter of the proposed project, and will not issue a license unless LES can demonstrate it can meet NRC's safety requirements. T.C. Johnson also discussed opportunities for public input and provided contacts for licensing, the environmental review, and for inspection. T. Harris discussed the process for preparing the environmental impact statement. He stated that there are formal opportunities for public input through the scoping meeting and commenting on the draft environmental impact statement. D. Collins discussed the inspection program for construction and operations, and listed areas that would be inspected during construction. He stated that the construction inspections would be intended to ensure that the facility is built in accordance with the commitments made by LES in its application.

The panel then took questions. Questions dealt with the benefits of the facility, waste management issues, transportation, physical security, extending the comment period on the LES issue "white papers," and the Homer, Louisiana, project hearing issues.

Regarding the benefits of the facility, G. Dials indicated that LES is projecting a \$17,000,000 payroll for the operating facility. He also indicated that the amount of taxes to be paid has not been determined.

Several questions concerned the disposition of the depleted uranium tails. G. Dials stated that the Department of Energy (DOE) has not identified depleted uranium as a waste. W. Richman and W. Calloway questioned whether there is a sufficient demand for the material for commercial use indicating that there are over 700,000 MT of depleted uranium at the Oak Ridge, Paducah, and Portsmouth enrichment facilities. T.C. Johnson stated that, by law, DOE is responsible for the disposal of depleted uranium from the LES enrichment facility and LES will need to negotiate an agreement with DOE for transfer of the material. T.C. Johnson also said that, if commercial uses cannot be found for the depleted uranium, NRC expects that the impacts of disposal of the remaining material will be provided in LES's environmental report. T.C. Johnson also stated that, under NRC regulations, depleted uranium would be a Class A low-level waste and not GTCC wastes as was previously stated.

Questions involving transportation included whether new roads would be needed. G. Dials indicated that in the site selection process the existing road networks were evaluated and LES concluded that no new roads would be necessary. T.C. Johnson stated that several thousand uranium hexafluoride cylinders are transported annually in the United States. The transportation package designs are based on international standards in place for over 30 years. He said that while there have been a few mishaps in the United States, none have resulted in cylinder rupture.

Several questions were asked regarding the potential for terrorism. T.C. Johnson indicated that the NRC is evaluating physical security requirements in light of the World Trade Center attacks. NRC has recently issued interim orders to nuclear power plants and fuel cycle facilities to increase security levels. NRC is also doing a comprehensive review of all of its security requirements, including transportation security, and LES committed to implementing any new requirements that result from this review.

On October 2, 2002, NRC had issued a Federal Register notice offering an opportunity for public comment on six policy issues LES had requested guidance on. Because no local advertising of the comment period was made, W. Calloway asked the NRC to extend the comment period 90 days. T.C. Johnson indicated that NRC would take his request under consideration. Regarding the policy issues, T.C. Johnson was asked to comment on the press release issued by the Nuclear Information and Resource Services. He summarized the press release and indicated that the implication that the LES policy issues are being considered in secret is incorrect. NRC had met in a meeting open to the public in April and had made the meeting summary and LES request available in its public document system. In addition, the issues have been covered by the trade press and by some national newspapers.

In response to a question, T.C. Johnson summarized the hearing issues from the previous LES effort to license a gas centrifuge enrichment plant in Homer, Louisiana. He explained that several issues had been raised in the hearing, but the issue involving environmental justice had not been resolved at the time LES requested that the proceeding be terminated. He stated that the environmental justice issue was a unique case involving two poor, black communities that surrounded the proposed site. The principal issue related to the difficulties in moving around the site between the two communities since most of the residents did not have cars and some were elderly.

Action Items:

Consider request for extending public comment period on LES policy issues.

Attachment: NRC Presentation Handouts



TROUSDALE COUNTY PUBLIC
INFORMATION FORUM

OCTOBER 14, 2002



OBJECTIVES

- PROVIDE BRIEF SUMMARY OF NRC LICENSING PROCESS
- PROVIDE BRIEF SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROCESS
- DESCRIBE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES



NRC LICENSING PROCESS

- NRC IS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING PROTECTION OF PUBLIC AND WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY FROM RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS.
 - NRC IS NOT A PROMOTER OF PROPOSED PROJECT.
 - A LICENSE IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO ENRICHMENT FACILITY CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION.
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- LES IS PROPOSING TO SUBMIT A LICENSE APPLICATION IN JANUARY 2003.
- NRC WILL PERFORM A TECHNICAL REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION TO ENSURE IT MEETS NRC HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS (10 CFR PART 70).
- NRC WILL PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Attachment



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- NRC STAFF HAS HAD A SERIES OF PRE-APPLICATION MEETING WITH LES TO ENSURE COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF REQUIREMENTS.

 - NRC TECHNICAL REVIEW WILL TAKE 18-20 MONTHS.
 - NRC TO REVIEW APPLICATION;
 - REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, IF NEEDED;
 - DOCUMENT SAFETY REVIEW IN SAFETY EVALUATION REPC
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- PUBLIC WILL HAVE SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE INF THE LICENSING PROCESS.
 - OPPORTUNITY TO PETITION FOR A HEARING WILL BE OFFE SHORTLY AFTER APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED.
 - ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS
 - SCOPING MEETING



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- SOME TECHNICAL MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN HARTSVILLE ,

 - NRC HAS GAS CENTRIFUGE PROJECT WEBSITE (WWW.NRC
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NRC's Environmental Review



Timothy E. Harris Project Manager



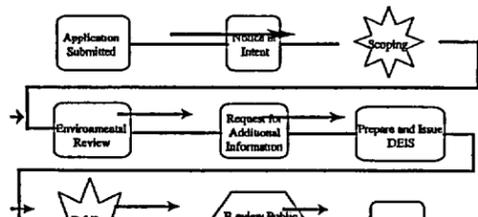
NRC's Environmental Review

Why we conduct environmental reviews?

- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- Environmental Impact Statement
 - Planning and decision-making tool
 - Compares impacts among alternatives
- Environment Impacts
 - Air Quality
 - Water Quality
 - Ecology



EIS Process



THE INSPECTION PROGRAM

DOUG COLLINS

NRC REGION II, ATLANTA, GA



THE INSPECTION PROGRAM

HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL PERSONNEL ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REGULATING AND INSPECTING THE FACILITY

THE INSPECTION PROGRAM PERMITS THE NRC TO ASSESS WHETHER FACILITIES ARE OPERATED SAFELY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS, AND THAT LICENSEE ACTIVITIES DO NOT POSE SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS RISKS TO:



REGULATORY GOAL: RISKS CONTROLLED TO ACCEPTABLE LEVEL
ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

INSPECTION ACTIVITIES COMMENSURATE WITH RISK AND PERFORMANCE
OF THE FACILITY

ASSURANCE THAT THE FACILITY IS CONSTRUCTED AND OPERATED
ACCORDANCE WITH COMMITMENTS THE APPLICANT MADE IN THE LICENSE



INSPECTION ACTIVITIES DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE INCLUDE:

QUALITY ASSURANCE	STRUCTURAL STEEL
DESIGN CHANGES	PIPING
PROCUREMENTS	MECHANICAL COMPONENTS
RECORDS	ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS
TRAINING	INSTRUMENTATION
GEOTECHNICAL/FOUNDATION	WELDING
STRUCTURAL CONCRETE	TESTING AND CALIBRATIONS



INSPECTION ACTIVITIES DURING FACILITY OPERATIONS INCLUDE:

SAFETY OPERATIONS:

- CHEMICAL SAFETY, NUCLEAR CRITICALITY SAFETY, OPERATIONS, MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION AND CONTROLS, AND SAFETY

SAFEGUARDS:

- CONTROL, ACCOUNTING AND PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL AND CLASSIFIED INFORMATION



RADIOLOGICAL CONTROLS:

- RADIATION PROTECTION, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND LOW LEVEL WASTE STORAGE

FACILITY SUPPORT:

- MAINTENANCE/SURVEILLANCE, TRAINING, AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



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NRC CONTACTS

LES PROJECT MANAGER: TIM JOHNSON; 301-415-7299; TCJ@NRC

EIS PROJECT MANAGER: TIM HARRIS; 301-415-6613; THE@NRC.C

**PROJECT INSPECTOR: DEBORAH SEYMOUR; 404-562
DAS@NRC.GOV**

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SUMMARY

- PROVIDE BRIEF SUMMARY OF NRC LICENSING PROCESS
- PROVIDE BRIEF SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROCESS
- DESCRIBE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES