

November 6, 2002

Ms. Pauline Collins  
1624 Beaver Dam Road  
Whitesburg, KY 41858

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RELATED TO LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES  
GAS CENTRIFUGE ENRICHMENT FACILITY

Dear Ms. Collins:

Thank you for your letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) dated October 22, 2002. In your letter, you indicated that you wish to join the comments submitted by the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) dated September 11, 2002, regarding the licensing policy issues for Louisiana Energy Services (LES). You also requested a 90-day comment period on the LES policy issues.

On September 9, 2002, LES announced its gas centrifuge enrichment plant site selection as the Hartsville site in Tennessee. Responding to the NIRS request, dated September 11, 2002, we published in the Federal Register a formal, 30-day opportunity to comment on the policy issues. This 30-day comment period was to end on November 1, 2002. On October 14, 2002, Trousdale County sponsored a public information forum in Hartsville. At this forum, members of the public expressed concern that they had only recently become aware of the proposed siting of the plant near Hartsville, and didn't have an adequate period of time to provide input on the issues presented by LES. By letter dated October 16, 2002, LES also requested the NRC to extend the comment period. After considering these requests, on October 25, 2002, we published a Federal Register Notice extending the comment period to November 13, 2002. We believe that this extension will provide the public with an adequate period to review the LES policy issues and provide input.

The public will also have several other opportunities to formally participate in the LES licensing process. For example, after LES submits its license application and environmental report to the NRC, the public will have an opportunity to petition for a hearing. In addition, the public will have an opportunity to provide information in the NRC's environmental impact statement (EIS) scoping process and to comment on NRC's draft EIS. Under NRC regulations, an EIS is required for a uranium enrichment facility and, therefore, you do not need to request this action. As part of the EIS, NRC will address questions of environmental justice.

P. Collins

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You also requested that we add your name to the service list for documents for Docket Nos. 70-3103 and 70-7003. We are asking that individual members of the public use the NRC's Agency-wide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) for access to gas centrifuge project documents. Information on how to use ADAMS is available on the NRC web site at ([www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)).

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Timothy C. Johnson  
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, 70-7003

cc: William Szymanski/DOE  
Rod Krich/Exelon  
James Curtiss/W&S  
Jerry Clift/Trousdale  
Mario Robles/USEC  
George Dials/LES  
E. Nanney/State of Tennessee  
Michael Marrotte/NIRS

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Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Timothy C. Johnson  
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, 70-7003

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George Dials/LES  
E. Nanney/State of Tennessee  
Michael Marrotte/NIRS

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Accession Number: **ML023100476**

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