

December 23, 2002

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Senator McConnell:

This is in response to your letter to Mr. Dennis Rathbun, dated November 19, 2002. In your letter you asked us to respond to Ms. Pauline Collins, one of your constituents, concerning the licensing of a uranium enrichment facility in Hartsville, Tennessee. We are enclosing our response, dated November 6, 2002, to Ms. Collins' letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure: Letter to Pauline Collins

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Enclosure: Letter to Ms. Pauline Collins

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OFC	SPIB*		SPIB*	2E	SPIB*		SPIB*		FCSS*	
NAME	TCJohnson:dw		LGross		JGitter		MLeach		RPierson	
DATE	12/ 09 /02		12/ 09 /02		12/ 10 /02		12/ 11 /02		12 / 11 /02	

OFC	NMSS*		OCA		DEDO		EDO	
NAME	MVirgilio		DRathbun		CPaperiello		WTravers	
DATE	12/15/02		12/ 23/02		12 / 19 /02		12 /20 /02	

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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.

Enclosure

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).

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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Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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E. Nanney/State of Tennessee
Michael Marrotte/NIRS

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