

December 30, 2002

The Honorable Bill Frist
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-1702

Dear Senator Frist:

I am writing in response to Misty Weber's letter to Mr. Dennis Rathbun, dated November 26, 2002. Ms. Weber's correspondence attached a letter from Ms. Jane Ogles concerning the licensing of a uranium enrichment facility in Hartsville, Tennessee, being proposed by Louisiana Energy Services (LES).

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is responsible for reviewing LES's license application, which we expect to receive in January 2003. Our review will address the protection of public health and safety of the proposed operations. We will also prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

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, and an opportunity to petition for a hearing.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

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William D. Travers
 Executive Director
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Docket: 70-3103

cc: William Szymanski/DOE
 George Dials/LES
 Rod Krich/Exelon
 James Curtiss/W&S
 Jerry Clift/Trousdale
 Mario Robles/USEC
 E. Nanney/State of Tennessee
 Michael Marriotte/NIRS
 Ms. Misty Weber/Senator Frist staff

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