

February 7, 2003

The Honorable Jim Bunning
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bunning:

Thank you for your letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) dated December 11, 2002. In your letter you requested us to respond to questions from one of your constituents, Ms. Pauline Collins, regarding the Louisiana Energy Services (LES) proposed uranium enrichment facility in Hartsville, Tennessee. We are enclosing our response to Ms. Collins.

Ms. Collins expressed several concerns about the LES project regarding environmental justice, transportation of radioactive materials, the need for the facility, and foreign ownership. Each of these concerns is an area that will be evaluated in the NRC's review of the LES application. NRC will also prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project.

In addition, you should be aware that the public will have several opportunities to formally participate in the LES licensing process. For example, after LES submits its license application and environmental report to NRC, the public will have an opportunity to petition for a hearing. Furthermore, the public will have an opportunity to provide information in NRC's EIS scoping process and to comment on NRC's draft EIS. Our intent is to give the public an opportunity to participate in the formal licensing process. In addition, meetings between the staff and LES have been and will continue to be noticed and the public may attend meetings in accordance with the Commission's policy on public meetings.

If you have any further questions about this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or Timothy Johnson of my staff at (301) 415-7299.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure: Letter to Ms. Collins

January 23, 2003

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

Dear Ms. Collins:

We are responding to your email to Senator Jim Bunning dated October 24, 2002. In your email, you raised several concerns regarding the Louisiana Energy Services (LES) proposed uranium enrichment facility in Hartsville, Tennessee.

Your concerns related to environmental justice, transportation of radioactive materials, the need for the facility, and foreign ownership. Each of these concerns are areas that will be evaluated in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) review of the LES application. NRC will also prepare an environmental impact statement for the project.

We would like to point out that the public will have several 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. Our intent is to give the public an opportunity to participate in the formal licensing process. In addition, meetings between the staff and LES have been and will continue to be noticed and the public may attend meetings in accordance with the Commissions' policy on public meetings.

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Melvyn N. Leach, Chief
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
George Dials/LES
Rod Krich/Exelon
James Curtiss/W&S
Jerry Clift/Trousdale
Mario Robles/USEC
E. Nanney/State of Tennessee
Michael Marriotte/NIRS

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DAyres/Reg II	BBartlett/Reg III	MChatterton	KOBrian/RIII	Hearing file
BSmith/EDO	LClark/OGC	SFlanders/DWM	THarris/DWM	DBrown
KEverly/NSIR	RVirgilio/OPA	RHannah/Reg II	YFaraz	SGagner/OPA
VMitlung/Reg III	DSeymour/Reg II	SWoods/DWM	TPowell	PLohaus/OSTP
SECY-LTR-03-0026	EDO r/f	PShea, EDO		

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