

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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William D. Travers  
Executive Director  
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KEverly/NSIR	RVirgilio/OPA	RHannah/Reg II	YFaraz	SGagner/OPA
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SECY-LTR-03-0026	EDO r/f	PShea, EDO		

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<b>DATE</b>	1/ 27/03		01/29/03		02/07/03		02/04/03		02/05/03	

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