



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs

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NRC ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO REQUEST HEARING ON USEC'S LEAD CASCADE ENRICHMENT FACILITY LICENSE APPLICATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is providing members of the public an opportunity to request a hearing on the U.S. Enrichment Corporation Inc.'s license application for the American Centrifuge Lead Cascade Facility in Piketon, Ohio, to demonstrate the feasibility of gas centrifuge technology for uranium enrichment.

USEC filed its application to operate the Lead Cascade facility on February 11. The gas centrifuge technology has been used extensively in Europe to enrich uranium for about 30 years. The Department of Energy used gas centrifuge technology until 1985 to enrich uranium on a limited scale.

The NRC notified USEC on March 13 that after an administrative review of the Lead Cascade license application, the staff had found the application acceptable for technical review. Under procedures for licensing test and demonstration facilities, the NRC will document its technical reviews related to radiological safety and common defense and security in a Safety Evaluation Report and its environmental review in an Environmental Assessment. The NRC anticipates completing its reviews and making its decision by next February.

Under NRC regulations, any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a request for a hearing. Persons requesting a hearing should describe in detail their interest in the proceeding, how their interest may be affected, and their concerns about the licensing activity under review. A request must be filed within 30 days of the date of publication of a *Federal Register* notice announcing the opportunity to file, which is expected shortly.

A request for a hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, either by delivery to the Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff of the Secretary at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852 between 7:45 a.m and 4:15 p.m on Federal workdays; or by mail or telegram addressed to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff. Requests for a hearing should also be transmitted to the Secretary of the Commission by facsimile, to 301-425-1101, or by e-mail to hearingdocket@nrc.gov.

In addition, copies of the request for a hearing must be delivered personally or by mail to the applicant, U.S. Enrichment Corporation Inc., 6903 Rockledge Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817, Attention:

Mr. Steven A. Toelle; and to the NRC staff, by delivering to the General Counsel, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, between 7:45 a.m and 4:15 p.m on Federal work days; or by mail, addressed to the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555. Requests for a hearing should also be transmitted to the Office of the General Counsel by facsimile, to 301-415-3725, or by e-mail to OGCMailCenter@nrc.gov .

For further details, the unclassified and non-proprietary portions of USEC's license application may be examined and/or copied for a fee at the NRC's Public Document Room, located at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. The application is also available online through the NRC's Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> ; ADAMS accession number ML030730232. Any questions with respect to the application should be referred to Mr. Yawar Faraz, Project Manager, Office of Nuclear Materials Safety and Safeguards, Mail Stop T-8 A33, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555; telephone (301) 415-8113 or e-mail yhf@nrc.gov.

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