

April 3, 2003

Wenonah Hauter, Director
Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy
and Environment Program
Public Citizen
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Ms. Hauter:

I am responding to your letter of March 11, 2003, in which you inquired about the status of NRC's review of the "white papers" submitted by Louisiana Energy Services (LES) on April 24, 2002. The NRC staff has carefully reviewed the issues raised in these white papers and considered several hundred public comments, including the comments submitted by Public Citizen on October 23, 2002.

On March 24, 2003, the staff, after consultation with the Commission, issued a letter to LES describing how the staff will consider the issues in the white papers during the evaluation of its application. I enclose a copy of the staff's letter for your information. As stated in that letter, the Commission may issue additional direction following receipt of an application from LES.

If you have any further questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Timothy Johnson, the NRC project manager for LES, at (301) 415-7299.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

Enclosure: As stated