

October 31, 2002

Mr. Will Callaway  
Executive Director  
Tennessee Environmental Council  
Suite D-105  
One Vantage Way  
Nashville, TN 37228

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF COMMENT PERIOD ON  
LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES "WHITE PAPERS"

Dear Mr. Callaway

Thank you for your letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) dated October 15, 2002. In your letter, you requested the NRC to extend, by an additional 60 days, the 30-day comment period on the six licensing issues presented by Louisiana Energy Services (LES) in a letter to the NRC dated April 24, 2002. NRC held a public meeting with LES on April 30, 2002 to discuss these issues further. Subsequent to that meeting, the NRC received comments on the issues from the United States Enrichment Corporation and the Department of Energy.

On September 9, 2002, LES announced its gas centrifuge enrichment plant site selection as the Hartsville site in Tennessee. Responding to a Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) request, dated September 11, 2002, we published in the Federal Register a formal, 30-day opportunity to comment on the policy issues. This 30-day comment period was to end on November 1, 2002. On October 14, 2002, Trousdale County sponsored a public information forum in Hartsville. At this forum, members of the public expressed concern that they had only recently become aware of the proposed siting of the plant near Hartsville and didn't have an adequate period of time to provide input on the issues presented by LES. By letter dated October 16, 2002, LES also requested the NRC to extend the comment period. After considering these requests, on October 25, 2002, we published a Federal Register Notice extending the comment period to November 13, 2002. We believe that this extension will provide the public with an adequate period to review the LES policy issues and provide input.

As you are aware, the public will have several other 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.

F12

W. Callaway - 2 -

We look forward to receiving any comments that you may have on the LES policy issues and hope that you are able to participate in future LES licensing proceedings.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Timothy C. Johnson  
Special Projects Section  
Special Projects and Inspection Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket: 70-3103, 70-7003

cc: William Szymanski/DOE  
Rod Krich/Exelon  
James Curtiss/W&S  
Jerry Clift/Trousdale  
Mario Robles/USEC  
George Dials/LES  
E. Nanney/State of Tennessee  
Michael Marrotte/NIRS

W. Callaway - 2 -

We look forward to receiving any comments that you may have on the LES policy issues and hope that you are able to participate in future LES licensing proceedings.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Timothy C. Johnson  
Special Projects Section  
Special Projects and Inspection Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket: 70-3103, 70-7003

cc: William Szymanski/DOE  
Rod Krich/Exelon  
James Curtiss/W&S  
Jerry Cliff/Trousdale  
Mario Robles/USEC  
George Dials/LES  
E. Nanney/State of Tennessee  
Michael Marrotte/NIRS

FCSS Ticket: 2002-039

**DISTRIBUTION:** Docket: 70-3103      ADAMS      PUBLIC      NMSS r/f      FCSS r/f  
SPIB r/f      RPierson      ELeeds      Hearing file      JLieberman/OGC  
DAyres/Reg II      PHiland/Reg III      MChatterton      THarris/DWM      SWoods/DWM  
BSmith/EDO      TCombs/OCA      LClark/OGC      SFlanders/DWM      MLeach  
KEverly/NSIR      DBrown      RVirgilio/OPA      RHannah/Reg II      YFaraz  
VMitlung/Reg III      DSeymour/Reg II      MBlevins/DWM      ABradford/DWM      PLohaus/OSTP  
TPowell      SGagner/OPA

Accession Number: MLML023050418

G:\SPB\TCJLESTEC.wpd

\*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

| OFC  | SPIB*      | C | SPIB*      | 2E | SPIB*      | SPIB*      |
|------|------------|---|------------|----|------------|------------|
| NAME | YFaraz:dw  |   | KValloch   |    | TJohnson   | JGlitter   |
| DATE | 10/ 30 /02 |   | 10/ 30 /02 |    | 10/ 30 /02 | 10/ 31 /02 |

C = COVER

E = COVER & ENCLOSURE  
OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

N = NO COPY