

March 2, 2004

The Honorable James Brown
City of Eunice
P.O. Box 147
1106 Avenue J
Eunice, NM 88231

SUBJECT: LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES LICENSING SCHEDULE

Dear Mayor Brown:

This is in response to your letter of February 12, 2004, to Chairman Nils Diaz in which you expressed concerns about the schedule for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission review of the license application for the proposed Louisiana Energy Services gas centrifuge uranium enrichment plant in Eunice, New Mexico. In the Order issued by the Commission on January 30, 2004, the Commission imposed a 30-month schedule for the proceeding (see Enclosure). This schedule is based on completing the technical review and preparing an environmental impact statement within 18 months. The remainder of the time is allocated for a hearing and any final Commission determinations. We, therefore, consider that the technical review and environmental impact statement preparation schedule is consistent with the information provided to you in previous discussions with my staff. However, in accordance with the Order, we are also trying to identify efficiencies that would further reduce the time needed to complete the licensing review.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-7800.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Martin J. Virgilio, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: Commission Order
Docket: 70-3103

cc:	William Szymanski/DOE	Claydean Claiborne/Jal
	Rod Krich/Exelon	Bobby Walloch/Hobbs
	James Curtiss/W&S	Troy Harris/Lovington
	Mario Robles/USEC	Betty Richman/Tatum
	James Ferland/LES	Glen Hackler/Andrews
	Dennis Holmberg/Lea County	William Floyd/New Mexico
	James Brown/Eunice	Richard Ratliff/Texas
	Michael Marriotte/NIRS	Jerry Clift/Hartsville
	Terry Sweeton/CSC	

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