

November 30, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Joseph G. Giitter, Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards

THRU: Brian W. Smith, Chief /RA/
Gas Centrifuge Facility Licensing Section
Special Projects Branch, FCSS

FROM: Timothy C. Johnson, Project Manager /RA/
Gas Centrifuge Facility Licensing Section
Special Projects Branch, FCSS

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 4, 2004, TELEPHONE SUMMARY: LOUISIANA
ENERGY SERVICES DISCUSSIONS ON CHEMICAL
EXPOSURE LIMITS

On November 4, 2004, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a telephone conference call with staff from Louisiana Energy Services (LES) to discuss chemical exposure limits related to the LES uranium enrichment plant proposed to be built in Eunice, New Mexico. I am attaching the telephone summary for your use. The summary contains no proprietary or classified information.

Docket: 70-3103

Attachment: Louisiana Energy Services
Telephone Summary

cc:	William Szymanski/DOE	Claydean Claiborne/Jal	Rod Krich/LES
	Monty Newman/Hobbs	James Curtiss/W&S	Troy Harris/Lovington
	Peter Miner/USEC	Betty Richman/Tatum	James Ferland/LES
	Glen Hackler/Andrews	Dennis Holmberg/Lea Cty	John Parker/NMED
	James Brown/Eunice	Richard Ratliff/Texas	M. Marriotte/NIRS
	Jerry Clift/Hartsville	CO'Claire/Ohio	Lee Cheney/CNIC
	Derrith Watchman-Moore/NMED	Joseph Malherek/PC	Ron Curry/NMED
	Tannis Fox/NMED	Patricia Madrid/NMAG	Glenn Smith/NMAG
	Lindsay Lovejoy/NIRS		

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NAME	TJohnson/os	LMarshall		WTroskoski	BSmith
DATE	11/30/04	11/30/04		11/30/04	11/30/04

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Telephone Conference Call Summary

Chemical Exposure Limits

Date and Time: 2:00 PM; November 4, 2004

Call Participants:	W. Troskoski/NRC	S. Steele/NRC
	T.C. Johnson/NRC	R. Krich/LES
	D. Green/Excel	G. Harper/Areva
	D. Pepe/Areva	

On November 4, 2004, a conference call between U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Louisiana Energy Services (LES) staffs was held to discuss chemical exposure limits related to LES' application for a uranium enrichment facility proposed to be located in Eunice, New Mexico.

Discussion:

In its application, LES proposed to use Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGs) for chemical safety consequence determination. The applicant proposed to use a time-weighted method for exposure durations of 1 minute, 2.5 minutes, and 5 minutes for worker exposures. NRC staff noted that the "Standing Operating Procedure of the National Advisory Committee on Acute Exposure Guideline Levels for Hazardous Substances," recommended against the use of AEGs values for exposure periods of less than 10 minutes because of uncertainties for very short duration exposures.

During the call, LES staff stated that they would revise their approach to eliminate time scaling, and use AEGs values consistent with NUREG-1520, "Standard Review Plan for the Review of a License Application for a Fuel Cycle Facility." The one exception would be for the exposure of a local worker to uranium, where the 40-mg limit contained in NUREG-1391, "Chemical Toxicity of Uranium Hexafluoride Compared to Acute Effects of Radiation," would be used. LES staff also stated that the impact to various accident scenarios would require the use of worker evacuation as an item relied on for safety. Evacuation times would be calculated and additional actions taken to ensure reliable detection. NRC staff noted that this approach would be acceptable.

LES staff indicated that they would document their revised approach in a letter with modifications made to the safety analysis report in the next revision.