

December 28, 2004

Mr. Mark Epstein, Department Head
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
Resource Protection and Review
567 East Hudson Street
Columbus, OH 43211-1030

SUBJECT: INITIATION OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT
SECTION 106 PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED AMERICAN CENTRIFUGE
COMMERCIAL PLANT, PIKE COUNTY, OHIO

Dear Mr. Epstein:

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received a license application from USEC, Inc. (USEC) for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility known as the American Centrifuge Plant (ACP). The NRC is in the initial stages of developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed facility to be located at the Department of Energy (DOE) reservation in Piketon, Ohio. USEC's license application contained an Environmental Report (ER) that will be used to support the NRC's development of an EIS for the ACP. The proposed facility will use gas centrifuge technology to enrich the isotope Uranium -235 in uranium hexafluoride (UF₆), up to 10-weight percent. The proposed ACP will have a design capacity of seven million separative work units. The forthcoming EIS will document the impacts associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the facility.

Two preliminary phase I archaeological surveys and one draft cultural resource report have been completed for the DOE reservation. Archaeological surveys and the cultural report results are discussed section 3.8 of the ER (enclosed). Historical and cultural resource impacts are discussed in section 4.8 of the ER (enclosed).

As required by 36 CFR 800.3 (f), the NRC is requesting any information you may have regarding other parties that may be entitled to be consulting parties by this action. As required by 36 CFR 800.4(a), the NRC is requesting the views of the State Historic Preservation Officer and your office on further actions to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed ACP.

M. Epstein

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As part of the EIS preparation, the NRC will be hosting a public scoping meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2005, at the Zahns Corner Middle School in Piketon from 7:00 - 9:45. The meeting will include NRC staff presentations on the environmental review process, after which members of the public will be given the opportunity to present their comments. This scoping information, along with any information you provide, and material provided by USEC in the ER, will be used to document affects in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4 and 800.5. Additionally, we intend to use the EIS process for Section 106 purposes as described in 36 CFR 800.8.

If you any questions or comments, or need additional information, please contact Ron Linton at (301) 415-7777.

Sincerely,

/RA/

B. Jennifer Davis, Chief
Environmental and Performance
Assessment Branch
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 70-7004

cc: USEC Service List

Enclosure: Section 3.8 and 4.8 Environmental Report

M. Epstein

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| OFC | DWMEP | | DWMEP | |
| NAME | RLinton | | JDavis | |
| DATE | 12/21/04 | | 12/28/04 | |

USEC Service List

cc:

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