

From: Timothy Johnson
To: PHILLIP BARR
Date: 6/27/05 9:59AM
Subject: Re: Louisiana Energy services uranium enrichment plant

Below are responses to a series of questions you asked.

1. The LES plant will emit U234, U235, U236, U238. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Farquhar, are these substances beneficial for health? The net lists them as cancer causers.

These are radioactive materials and a minor amount will be released by the facility. However, there will be steps taken to lessen the impact on the environment and public. As noted in Section 9.3.1.2 of the Safety Evaluation Report (SER), a Gaseous Effluent Vent System (GEVS) will be installed. The function of each GEVS is to remove particulate matter containing uranium from gas streams. Each GEVS includes ducts; prefilters; high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters; potassium carbonate-impregnated activated carbon filters; fans; monitors and controls; inlet and outlet isolation dampers; and a discharge stack. The use of HEPA filters is standard industry practice for control of air effluents that potentially contain airborne particle matter. LES has demonstrated that its air effluent controls will reduce releases to assure adequate protection of the environment and of health and safety of the public that exceed the limits in place by the NRC, New Mexico, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines. As noted in Section 8.7 of the applicant's Environmental Report (ER), a maximum annual release of to the atmosphere of 9 MBq (240 Ci) of uranium from gaseous release points is used as a bounding point and would be less than 0.17 microsieverts (Sv) (0.017 mrem), or 0.017 percent of the 1 mSv (100-mrem) limit on dose to the public in 10 CFR Part 20. The estimated maximum public dose is also well below the 0.1 mSv (10-mrem) ALARA constraint on air emissions described in 10 CFR 20.1101 (e.g., between 1 and 2 percent).

2. Will the LES enrichment plant have real time monitoring of air emissions? Monitors that will feed the info into a computer on a continuous basis, and not just be checked from time to time.

LES has identified all airborne effluent discharge locations, and will monitor discharges from potentially contaminated areas in accordance with NRC Regulatory Guide 4.16 (NRC, 1985). LES will perform continuous monitoring at the discharge stacks for alpha-emitting radioactivity and hydrogen fluoride (HF). LES will also conduct periodic grab sampling of areas that contain dispersible uranium, but which are not expected to have airborne contamination.

3. Will there be any state involvement in the monitoring or does LES get to monitor itself?

As referenced in Chapter 1 of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Table 1 lists New Mexico State regulations and laws and Table 2 specifies State and Federal permits that LES will have attain. LES will monitor its environmental impact through fixed and portable monitoring equipment. Periodic state and federal inspections will evaluate LES' compliance to the requirements.

4. What kind of Filters will be on the ventilation systems?

As stated in response to question 1, Section 9.3.1.2 of the SER notes that a Gaseous Effluent Vent System (GEVS) will be installed. Each GEVS includes ducts; prefilters; high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters; and potassium carbonate-impregnated activated carbon filters.

The Technical Services Building (TSB) GEVS contains one filter station and one fan that accommodates 100 percent of the effluent. The filter train includes a 85-percent efficient prefilter; a 99.97-percent-efficient HEPA filter; and a 99-percent-efficient activated charcoal filter for removal of HF. Cleaned air effluent is discharged through a roof-top vent stack.

The Separation Building GEVS contains two 100-percent-capacity filter/fan trains, with one train in a standby configuration. Like the TSB GEVS, each Separation Building GEVS filter train is composed of an 85-percent-efficient prefilter and a 99.97-percent-efficient HEPA filter. The activated charcoal filter for removal of HF is rated to 99-percent efficiency. The exhaust of the vacuum pump/trap sets is also routed through an electrostatic filter with a removal efficiency of 97 percent. The operational and standby filter/fan trains share the same roof-top vent stack.

5. Will there be any storage of nuclear materials from other countries at LES?

LES may receive some of its feed material from Canada. As discussed in section 2.1.7 of the EIS, the United States has one operating uranium conversion facility in Metropolis, Illinois. The closest foreign source for uranium to UF₆ conversion is Port Hope, Ontario, Canada. These two facilities would be the primary suppliers of the feed material for the proposed NEF.

6. Will there be any nuclear waste reprocessing for nuclear fuel or plutonium for weapons at the LES site?

The LES facility will not engage in reprocessing of nuclear fuel. LES has not submitted a license application for the reprocessing of nuclear fuel or plutonium for weapons, only to enrich natural uranium up to a maximum of 5 percent U₂₃₅.

7. Will the monitors used be able to pick up plutonium emissions?

The air monitors will be able to detect alpha-emitting radionuclides, but will not be set up to specifically detect plutonium, because it is not expected to be present.

8. I would also like to ask the NRC to release the emergency plan for LES to the public. What is the emergency plan for LES? In case of radioactive material release into air by catastrophic accident, weather, or terrorist attack, how would every single person be notified? That could be north of the plant. In Eunice or Hobbs. Where will they go in case of emergency, or as I understand the correct NRC term unexpected events? Its not an emergency plan, if its kept secret. If there is no plan in effect and something bad happens, then the taxpayers will pick up the bill.

LES submitted an Emergency Plan (EP) with its application on December 12, 2003. NRC reviewed the LES EP as part of its safety review and documented its findings in Chapter 8 of the SER. The information documented in the EP includes: 1) a description of the facility; 2) a characterization of classes of credible emergencies that might occur; 3) a description of authorities and responsibilities of key individuals; 5) a description of specific response measures; 6) descriptions of equipment and facilities designated for use during radiological emergencies; 7) a description of the methods for maintaining emergency preparedness; 8) a description of emergency records and reports; 9) a description of recovery and restoration measures; and 10) a commitment to comply with the Community Right-To-Know Act.

The nature of the information presented in the document is considered sensitive and could reasonably be expected to be useful to terrorists planning or executing an attack. Therefore, we are withholding it from public disclosure.

In case of a Site Area Emergency, where substantial releases could adversely affect off-site individuals, off-site response organizations would notify affected individuals as directed by the New Mexico All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan. Note that the type of event that could lead to a Site Area Emergency are high consequence events that are determined to be highly unlikely in the LES Integrated Safety Analysis. The primary actions to be taken by affected off-site individuals would be to remain inside buildings and close windows and doors. In accordance with 10 CFR 140.13b, LES shall, prior to and during operation, have and maintain nuclear liability insurance to cover claims resulting from events that occur containing source or special nuclear material.

>>> "PHILLIP BARR" <pharb2@msn.com> 06/16/05 09:17AM >>>

Will LES monitor its own air emissions? Will there be any state or federal employees on site that will be responsible for this?

Phillip Barr

----- Original Message -----

From: Timothy Johnson<<mailto:TCJ@nrc.gov>>

To: pharb2@msn.com<<mailto:pharb2@msn.com>>

Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2005 6:49 AM

Subject: Re: Louisiana Energy services uranium enrichment plant

The off-site emergency responders are the following:

New Mexico Department of Public Safety
Eunice Fire and Rescue Services
Eunice Police Department
Hobbs Fire Department
Lea County
Lea County Sheriff's Office
Lea Regional Medical Center

The above organizations will be trained in accordance with the New Mexico All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan. LES is prepared to provide radiological and chemical response training to the off-site responders.

Emergency response would include accidents caused by tornados.

>>> "PHILLIP BARR" <pharb2@msn.com<<mailto:pharb2@msn.com>>> 06/14/05 11:41AM
>>>

What and who are the "off-site response organizations ?" I take it they will be fully trained and equipped to handle any kind of radioactive material release? That includes tornados that might move some of the cylinders off-site?

phillip barr
Lea county

----- Original Message -----

From: Timothy Johnson<<mailto:TCJ@nrc.gov><<mailto:TCJ@nrc.gov>>>

To:

pharb2@msn.com<<mailto:pharb2@msn.com><<mailto:pharb2@msn.com><<mailto:pharb2@msn.com><<mailto:pharb2@msn.com>>>>

Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2005 8:41 AM

Subject: Re: Louisiana Energy services uranium enrichment plant

LES submitted an Emergency Plan with its application on December 12, 2003. NRC reviewed the LES Emergency Plan as part of its safety review. In case of a Site Area Emergency, where substantial releases could adversely affect off-site individuals, off-site response organizations would notify affected individuals as directed by the New Mexico All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan. Note that the type of event that could lead to a Site Area Emergency are high consequence events that are determined to be highly unlikely in the LES Integrated Safety Analysis. The primary actions to be taken by affected off-site individuals would be to remain inside buildings and close windows and doors.

The Agreement between the U.S., the United Kingdom, The Netherlands, and Germany is applicable to LES, and would apply throughout LES' operations period.

>>> "PHILLIP BARR"

<pharb2@msn.com<mailto:pharb2@msn.com<mailto:pharb2@msn.com<mailto:pharb2@msn.com>>> 06/09/05 06:30PM >>>

question 1. I would like to know what the emergency plan for LES is. I thought that was part of the licensing process.

In case of catastrophic accident, terrorist attack, bad weather and radioactive material is released into the air:

How will the people in Eunice and Hobbs be warned?

How will the people in the country north of the plant be warned?

Where will they go?

question 2. Will the MOU listed below apply to LES and give this company 45 years of operations in New Mexico.

Local Republican congressmen don't answer questions on les.

P. Barr

Lea county

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Subject: Re: Louisiana Energy services uranium enrichment plant
Creation Date: 6/27/05 9:59AM
From: Timothy Johnson

Created By: TCJ@nrc.gov

Recipients

msn.com

pharb2 (PHILLIP BARR)

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