## February 18, 2003

The Honorable Richard A. Meserve, Chairman U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Docket # 70-7003

Dear Chairman Meserve:

We stand united in presenting our support for USEC Inc.'s application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to build the American Centrifuge Demonstration Facility in Piketon, Ohio. As Governor and as members of the United States Congress. we have offered our support to USEC to fully utilize the existing centrifuge buildings, infrastructure, workers and community for this project.

Southern Ohio has supported the uranium enrichment industry for more than 50 years and the region is overwhelmingly embracing USEC's plans to deploy this test plant, and hopefully a full commercial plant in Piketon. The workers and residents understand the risks associated with uranium enrichment and we believe that USEC will continue to assure the safety of its workers and the community.

We recognize the importance of American Centrifuge Technology in sustaining a strong domestic uranium enrichment industry. Ohio is excited that USEC decided to make use of the existing centrifuge facilities for demonstrating the American Centrifuge and we stand united in inviting USEC to build its Commercial Plant here as well. It is our hope that the NRC will expeditiously review and approve USEC's license application as we are eager to see these facilities become operational again.

Sincerely,

Governor

Mike DeWine

Senator

Congressman

Congressman

## EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM:

DUE: 03/14/03

EDO CONTROL: G20030091

DOC DT: 02/18/03

FINAL REPLY:

Governor Bob Taft Senator Mike DeWine Senator George V. Voinovich Representative Rob Portman Representative Bob Ney

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* GRN

CRC NO: 03-0106

Travers, EDO

DESC:

ROUTING:

USEC Inc.'s Application to the NRC to Build the

American Centrifuge Demonstration Facility

Travers Paperiello

Kane Norry Craig Burns/Cyr Dyer, RIII

DATE: 02/25/03

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NMSS

Virgilio

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

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## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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**ACTION OFFICE:** 

**EDO** 

**AUTHOR:** 

Governor Bob Taft

**AFFILIATION:** 

OH

ADDRESSEE:

Richard Meserve

SUBJECT:

Supports USEC Inc.'s application to the NRC to build the American Centrifuge Demonstration

Facility....

**ACTION:** 

**Appropriate** 

DISTRIBUTION:

RF

LETTER DATE:

02/18/2003

**ACKNOWLEDGED** 

No

SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES:

Co-authors:

Sen. Mike DeWine Sen. George Voinovich Congressman Rob Portman Congressman Bob Ney

FILE LOCATION:

Adams

DATE DUE:

**DATE SIGNED:** 

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The Honorable Bob Ney March 19, 2003 United States House of Representatives Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ney:

I am responding to your letter to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), of February 18, 2003, where you stated your support for the United States Enrichment Corporation Inc.'s (USEC) application to build the American Centrifuge Demonstration Facility (Lead Cascade) in Piketon, Ohio. In your letter, you also expressed an interest in the NRC being able to conduct an expeditious review and approval of the USEC license application for this facility.

As an independent regulatory agency, let me assure you that the NRC is dedicated to ensuring the safe and secure use of nuclear technology and is committed to meeting its responsibilities most effectively and efficiently within the framework of its regulations, while serving under the mandate of its statutory requirements. Our staff is appropriately aligned with the necessary core competencies to support an effective and efficient safety and safeguards review and we anticipate completing the review and decision making process in the February 2004 time-frame. As with any of the NRC's licensing and regulatory efforts, the submittal of a high-quality license application is most essential in facilitating a timely review process.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers Executive Director for Operations

cc: William Szymanski/DOE
Rod Krich/Exelon
Mario Robles/USEC Inc.
Randall DeVault/DOE
Dan Minter/Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative