

RAS 12859

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Washington, DC 20515-3502

January 8, 2007

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Docket No. 70-7004-ML

Office of the Secretary
Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001*Re: ASLBP Hearing, Piketon, Ohio, January 9, 2007*

It is my pleasure to serve as the U.S. Representative for Ohio's Second Congressional District, where USEC Inc. plans to locate its American Centrifuge Plant. Through the deployment of this plant, USEC is making a significant commitment in support of the nuclear renaissance that is currently taking place in the United States.

Based on the information I have received, I am confident USEC Inc. will deploy this technology safely and successfully. The first phase of construction projects supporting deployment of the Demonstration Facility was completed over a two-year period, and approximately \$17.5 million of work was safely completed by USEC and its contractors with no injuries. To date, the American Centrifuge program at Piketon has not experienced a recordable injury, illness, or lost work day during the three years of its existence.

Since USEC took over operations of the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in 1993, the plant has had an exemplary safety and environmental record. USEC also has an excellent history of compliance with NRC and EPA regulations. USEC's impressive track record shows that safety and environmental protection is its highest priority.

When the commercial plant is completed, the world's most advanced centrifuge technology for uranium enrichment will be located in Pike County -- something of which I know Southern Ohioans can be proud. The facility will also support hundreds of highly-skilled jobs.

Nuclear power safely provides one-fifth of our nation's electricity and prevents the annual release of millions of tons of CO2 emissions. It is clear that nuclear power will continue to play a significant role in meeting our energy needs and it is critical that the U.S. nuclear industry have a domestic enrichment capacity to avoid dependence on foreign sources for its fuel.

Administrative Judge Lawrence G. McDade

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In 2003, thousands of local residents and officials sent letters in support of locating the American Centrifuge in Piketon. This was in addition to the expressed support of former Governor Bob Taft, former U.S. Representative and current Governor Ted Strickland, and former U.S. Representative and current OMB Director Rob Portman. This type of overwhelming community support helped convince USEC to site the American Centrifuge in Ohio. I join them in providing my support as well.

As the U.S. Representative for Ohio's Second Congressional District, I fully support the American Centrifuge and its deployment of this valuable technology.

Within all applicable rules and regulations, I respectfully request your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,



Jean Schmidt
Representative

JS/jl