

February 7, 2007 (8:30am)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Atomic Safety Licensing Board
January 9, 2007
6:00 PM Endeavor Center

Docket No. 70-7004-HL

Good evening. I am John Shewbrooks, President of the Pike County Chamber of Commerce. While I am an employee of USEC, I am here tonight solely as a representative of the Chamber of Commerce.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak with you tonight. I believe that it is important for everyone to have their opinions heard on this very important matter. The licensing process assures this. I am adamantly in favor of licensing the Centrifuge plant in Piketon. However, I respect the opportunity of those who oppose the plant to have their voice heard as well. I am not here to scream my opinion over anyone else's.

I believe that licensing the centrifuge plant is truly in the best interest of our community. Southern Ohio desperately needs good jobs. Jobs such as those created by USEC pay huge dividends throughout the area and not just those employed. The jobs will support our retail businesses, service industries, bolstering property values. The economic well being of our community hinges on this project.

Centrifuge jobs have a tremendous impact on our local economy. However, economic growth is simply not worth it if jobs carry great danger to the employees and the public. There lies the value of the Centrifuge plant to Pike County. Not only are these good paying jobs, they are safe jobs. I don't want my friends hurt and I don't want to see the environment damaged. USEC has proven to be a safe and environmentally responsible employer. Recently, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported to the public that they identified no weaknesses in USEC's operations over the past two years.

We are fortunate to have the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulating the plants. The NRC is technically competent. They hold the plant to high standards for safety. This, coupled with USEC's rigorous self-assessment processes assures safe operations for years to come.

The benefits of Centrifuge operations far outweigh the risks. Pike County needs this plant. The Chamber of Commerce supports it without reservation.

There is a nuclear renaissance in this country and throughout the world. We want Pike County to play a key role it.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to express our viewpoint in favor of the licensing of the Centrifuge plant.



John Shewbrooks
President, Pike County Chamber of Commerce

TEMPLATE = SECY-038

SECY-02