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Docket No. 70-7004-HL

**United Steelworkers Local 5-689 Public Statement
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Public Meeting, Piketon, Ohio, January 9, 2007**

Statement prepared by Dan Minter, life-time resident of Southern Ohio, President of
United Steelworkers (USW) Local 5-689 and Vice Chairman of Southern Ohio
Diversification Initiative (SODI)

I submit this statement, first, as a lifelong resident of Piketon. (Literally, this hearing is held on the property where I lived as a child, and my former bedroom is in a house adjacent to this facility.) Second, as both President of the Union of employees at the Piketon facility and a member of SODI, I speak as an elected representative of the workforce, as well as an active member of the community.

The American Centrifuge Program is significant on several levels, from helping ensure our national security and energy independence to providing high-quality jobs for the people of Southern Ohio. The Union and the Piketon workers strongly support the project, while recognizing that the assurance of the public's safety and health must be our first priority.

Having worked at a NRC regulated facility since 1997, I have observed first hand that safe and well regulated organizations in turn develop efficient, productive and profitable operations. This must be the approach taken regarding this technology deployment. Both USEC and the Union-represented workforce must take ownership of, and responsibility for, ensuring that safety is the first goal at every stage of this important program, and the other elements of success will follow.

The workforce and local community members signed thousands of letters of support for the ACP project. I personally had the honor to hand deliver these to the NRC early in the licensing proceedings. This clearly demonstrated that there is unprecedented local community and workforce support for this important project.

We recognize that the local community has confidence in the USW workforce's commitment to ensuring that public safety and health is a high priority, and the Union's continued involvement regarding this project will help assure that this continues. We are confident that USEC recognizes both the important role the workforce plays regarding public safety interests and our central part in helping advance the economic best interests of this community. The workers are a key stakeholder in the community and play a direct role in the site's safety performance. This has been demonstrated both locally and on a national basis. We understand this obligation and will endeavor to ensure that the public's interests are represented during both the licensing and operating phases of the ACP project. For these reasons, we believe it is crucial that the Union and our workforce continue to be involved in the work at the Piketon facility as it moves toward a new-generation technology, and we are working with USEC toward that goal.

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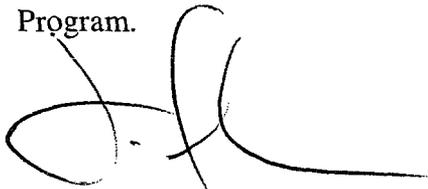
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In our experience, regulatory oversight combined with independent external review is the best way to assure that a facility such as this adheres to safe work practices, for the benefit of the employees and the community. The NRC process of independent regulatory authority provides significant assurances in regard to safety, and the Union and workers feel confident moving forward.

This deployment of this new technology represents an essential step in assuring our domestic and international energy needs.

- More than 20% of our nation's electrical energy is produced from nuclear energy. It is in our nation's best interest to ensure that reliable and cost-effective enrichment fuel is domestically produced. This is a significant step to ensure our nation's future energy independence, using American technologies.
- This technology will help assure that clean, reliable energy is available at a critical point in our growing energy economy. I personally met with Dr. Patrick Moore, a co-founder of Greenpeace, at a Congressional hearing in Washington, DC last September. Mr. Moore testified that he and numerous other environmentalists have concluded that nuclear energy is in fact the only way to meet growing energy demands and avoid catastrophic climate changes and environmental damage from emissions from dwindling fossil fuels.
- Nuclear energy represents one of the safest energy production resources available.
- The Piketon site workforce has demonstrated the capability to function in the NRC regulated environment, and can continue to do so well into the future.

This agency's review and subsequent approval of the ACP project represents the next step in ensuring that the important safety and health interests of the public will continue to be met, while at the same time, providing national energy independence and serving domestic clean energy needs. Your approval of this license application and supporting safety documentation will establish the regulatory framework and conditions to provide a solid foundation for the safe, long-term operations of the Piketon American Centrifuge Program.



**Respectfully submitted,
Dan Minter**

(If you need further information, contact Dan Minter at 740-289-2405.)

December 29, 2006

SOUTHERN OHIO
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