

June 15, 2009

Ms. Wanda L. Lagoe, Chief  
Bureau of Education, Training, and Technical Assistance  
Division of Occupational Safety and Health  
North Carolina Department of Labor  
1101 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1101

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION REGARDING LASER SAFETY FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT REGARDING THE PROPOSED GENERAL ELECTRIC-  
HITACHI GLOBAL LASER ENRICHMENT FACILITY

Dear Ms. Lagoe:

Thank you for meeting with my staff on May 28, 2008, to discuss the roles of the North Carolina Department of Labor, Division of Occupational Safety and Health (OSHNC) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in regulating a laser-based uranium enrichment facility proposed by General Electric-Hitachi (GEH). If built, the facility would be located in New Hanover County, North Carolina. The proposed facility would use a laser-based technology to enrich the isotope uranium-235 in uranium hexafluoride (UF<sub>6</sub>) up to 8 percent by weight. As you discussed with my staff in May 2008, OSHNC has been delegated by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration to regulate the safety of laser systems in North Carolina.

On January 30, 2009, GEH submitted an Environmental Report (ER) to NRC as one part of its application for a license to authorize construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed facility. The applicant's ER is publicly available in the NRC Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> using accession number ML090910573.

As required by Title 10 Code of Federal Regulations Part 51 (10 CFR 51), the NRC regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, NRC is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to document the impacts associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed facility. One aspect of NRC's EIS will be worker safety. To improve our understanding of potential impacts to worker safety during operation of the proposed facility, the NRC staff is requesting information regarding OSHNC plans to regulate laser safety at the proposed facility. Specifically, we request information about the applicable regulations, methods for implementing oversight, applicable worker exposure standards, required worker laser safety training, items required to protect workers, preventative and mitigative measures applicable to laser exposure, and major elements of the required safety program.

W. Lagoe

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We would appreciate any information you could provide on these topics. If you would prefer to discuss these issues, we can arrange a teleconference. Ms. Christianne Ridge of my staff will contact you to discuss your preference. If you have any questions or comments, or need any additional information, please contact Ms. Ridge at 301-415-5673.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Andrea Kock, Chief  
Environmental Review Branch  
Environmental Protection and  
Performance Assessment Directorate  
Division of Waste Management  
and Environmental Protection  
Office of Federal and State Materials  
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 70-7016

cc: See next page

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Sincerely,

Andrea Kock, Chief  
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Environmental Protection and  
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Division of Waste Management  
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Office of Federal and State Materials  
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Docket No.: 70-7016

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<b>DATE</b>	6/11/09	6/11/09	6/12/09	6/15/09

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EHughes/USACE  
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David Weaver/New Hanover County  
Christopher O'Keefe/New Hanover County  
Dennis Ihnat/New Hanover County  
Jennifer Braswell/New Hanover County