September 2, 2009

The Honorable George Wickliffe, Chief
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
P.O. Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74464

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING TRIBAL HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE GENERAL ELECTRIC-HITACHI GLOBAL LASER ENRICHMENT PROPOSED URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY IN WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Dear Chief Wickliffe:

On June 26, 2009, General Electric-Hitachi (GEH) submitted an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for a license to authorize construction and operation of a uranium enrichment facility. The facility, if licensed, would use a laser-based technology to enrich the isotope uranium-235 in uranium hexafluoride (UF_6) up to 8 percent by weight. GEH proposes to locate the facility on the existing General Electric/Global Nuclear Fuel-Americas site near Wilmington, in New Hanover County, North Carolina (Wilmington site).

As established in 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, the NRC is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed action. The EIS will address the impacts associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed facility. As part of the environmental review, the NRC is requesting input from the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians to facilitate the identification of Tribal historic sites or cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed action. Specifically, the NRC is interested in learning of any areas on the Wilmington site that you believe have traditional religious or cultural significance. Any input you provide will be used to enhance the scope and quality of our review in accordance with 10 CFR 51 and 36 CFR 800, the implementing regulation for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

To support the license application, GEH submitted an Environmental Report (ER) that identifies 107 hectares (265 acres) of the 656 hectare (1621 acre) Wilmington site as the area for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed facility. The ER is publicly available in the NRC Public Document Room located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible athttp://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. The accession number for the ER is ML090910573. For your convenience, we have enclosed the applicant's executive summary, as it appears in the ER, to provide you with background information.

We would appreciate any information you could provide about Tribal historic sites or cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed action. If you have any questions or comments, or need any additional information, please contact Ms. Christianne Ridge of my staff by telephone at 301-415-5673 or email at christianne.ridge@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Patrice M. Bubar, Deputy Director
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

Enclosure: GLE Environmental Report
Executive Summary

cc with enclosure:

Ms. Lisa C. Stopp, Tribal Historic
Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74465

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Executive Summary

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P.O. Box 746
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