

LES

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AUG 14 2009

NEF-09-00063-DOE

Dr. Ines R. Triay
Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0113

Subject: Conversion and Disposal of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF₆)
Generated at the National Enrichment Facility (NEF)

- References:
1. Letter from I. R. Triay (DOE) to G. Smith (LES) regarding updated cost estimate for DUF₆ conversion and disposal, dated March 17, 2008
 2. Letter NEF-07-0255, from G. Smith (LES) to J. Rispoli (DOE), "Re: Conversion and Disposal of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF₆) Generated by Louisiana Energy Services, LP (LES)," dated January 8, 2008
 3. Letter from T. Naquin (NRC) to S. Cowne (LES), Louisiana Energy Services Request for Additional Information on Decommissioning Funding Plan, July 16, 2009

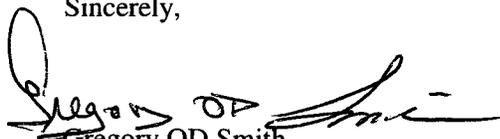
In its letter of March 17, 2008 (Ref. 1), the Department of Energy (DOE) responded to a request (Ref. 2) from Louisiana Energy Services, LLC (LES) to provide an updated cost estimate for the DOE to accept for conversion and disposal, the depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF₆) product to be generated by LES' proposed centrifuge facility (now known as the National Enrichment Facility). LES is now requesting that the DOE provide an update to the above cost estimate.

For DUF₆ conversion and disposal cost-estimating purposes, the DOE should assume an annual generation of 8,422 metric tons of DUF₆ at the National Enrichment Facility over a 30-year period beginning in 2010.

Also, it is noted that LES is currently preparing its response to NRC's Request for Additional Information (RAI) on LES' recent update of the Decommissioning Funding Plan cost estimate (DCE) (Reference 3); and one of the RAI statements is: "*LES should request DOE to confirm unanticipated increases in the estimated costs of tails conversion and disposal have not occurred and indicate the results of the DOE contact in the DCE.*" Accordingly, LES requests that the DOE provide the update to the DUF₆ conversion and disposal cost estimate as soon as possible.

Should you have any questions regarding the above request, please contact Stephen Cowne, Director of Quality and Regulatory Affairs, at 575.394.5253.

Sincerely,



Gregory OD Smith

Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nuclear Officer

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cc:

Tyrone D. Naquin, Project Manager
Two White Flint
Mail Stop EBB2-C40M
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Deborah A. Seymour
Chief, Construction Projects Branch 1
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center, 23 T85
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8931