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January 20, 2010

Ms. Annette L. Vietti-Cook
Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, DC 20555-0001

*4/09/09
74 FR 16237
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Prepare Non-Proliferation Impact Assessment for Laser Enrichment Technology

Dear Secretary Vietti-Cook:

I am writing to you concerning the nuclear proliferation risks associated with new laser enrichment technology that is now undergoing licensing review by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The laser uranium enrichment technology being pursued by Global Laser Enrichment (GLE) at its facility in Wilmington, North Carolina, presents a challenge to the NRC and the country as there are unique nuclear proliferation impacts associated with the technology which must be taken into account by the NRC.

Though the NRC is now preparing a draft Environmental Impact Statement related to the application for the laser enrichment technology it appears that no NPIA is being prepared, which is troubling given the potential proliferation impacts that laser enrichment poses.

Laser enrichment is of proliferation concern due to its smaller size and less power usage than other enrichment technologies. If this technology were to fall into the wrong hands, it could pose a serious security threat that must be fully analyzed before a license is issued allowing full-scale use of the technology.

Thus, given proliferation concerns, I request that a Nuclear-Nonproliferation Impact Assessment be prepared by the NRC on the laser enrichment technology. While this could be prepared in parallel with the EIS, it is imperative that such an assessment be prepared by the U.S. Government before this technology is deployed. Such an assessment should provide an opportunity for the public to provide input and comment.

Failure to prepare a NPIA will reflect poorly on the NRC and calls into question the Commission's monitoring of nuclear non-proliferation threats posed by the laser enrichment technology.

*SONSI Review Complete
Template = ADM-013*

*E-RIDS = ADM-03
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Thank you very much for considering my views and for including this request in the record (Docket No. 70-7016) and for your response to this request.

Sincerely,



Tom Clements
Southeastern Nuclear Campaign Coordinator

Cc:

Commissioner Greg Jaczko

Mr. Michael Tschiltz, Deputy Director
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