



Sam Shakir
President & CEO

10 CFR 70.5

January 27, 2010

AES-O-NRC-10-00257-0

ATTN: Mr. Daniel H. Dorman, Director
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

AREVA Enrichment Services LLC
Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility
NRC Docket No: 70-7015

Subject: EREF Transmission Line Review

Dear Mr. Dorman:

In August 2009, the NRC issued an RAI to AES requesting additional information to support its evaluation of the *cumulative impacts* of the off-site transmission lines. AES provided additional information to the NRC on September 9, 2009. Subsequently, AES submitted supplemental information to the NRC on the transmission lines on December 7, 2009.

Upon review of the RAI response and supplemental information submitted by AES, and in consultation with BLM, the NRC informed AES that because of the extent of the new transmission lines and because the proposed lines cross federal land, the NRC had to coordinate review and approvals with other cooperating agencies including BLM and DOE, and that such review would extend the schedule for issuing the draft EIS by a minimum of 6 months. Such delay would have a significant impact on the project and prompted AES to review its transmission line approach.

In our letter of January 19, 2010, we informed NRC of our decision to remove the redundant west transmission line from the license application. Furthermore, we indicated that the east transmission line, which for the most part, is an upgrade of an existing transmission line, would not cross any federal lands. By making this change to one transmission line, and more importantly eliminating any impact to federal

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lands, we expect that the NRC review would revert back to assessment of cumulative impacts as indicated in the process outlined in its August 2009 RAI, and for the draft EIS to be issued in the March-April, 2010 timeframe, close to the previously planned date of issuance.

To provide the NRC with the information needed to complete its review of cumulative impacts including an update to the transmission line routing information to accurately describe the proposed eastern route, AES will revise the response to ER RAI #4 and submit the information by this Friday, January 29, 2010. We appreciate the staff's efforts on this matter. We believe the position outlined above is consistent with that taken by the NRC in August 2009 and with previous licensing actions for other licensees. We respectfully request a timely response from the NRC to this letter so as to minimize any delays on issuance of the draft EIS.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sam Shakir'.

Sam Shakir