

June 17, 2010

Ms. Julie Olivier, Licensing Manager
GE Hitachi Global Laser Enrichment
P.O. Box 780
3901 Castle Hayne Road
Wilmington, NC 28402

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED GENERAL ELECTRIC-HITACHI LASER-BASED URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY NEAR WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Dear Ms. Olivier:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed NUREG-1938, the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed GE-Hitachi Global Laser Enrichment, LLC. Facility in Wilmington, North Carolina." The draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) includes analysis of relevant environmental issues and documents the NRC staff's preliminary determinations regarding the environmental impacts from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed uranium enrichment facility.

Enclosed are a copy of the DEIS and the associated *Federal Register* notice of availability. This notice advises the public that the draft report is available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>, which provides access through the NRC's Electronic Reading Room link. The accession number in ADAMS for the DEIS is ML101680345. The DEIS also may be accessed on the internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1938>. In addition, copies of the DEIS will be available at the New Hanover County Library, 201 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28401. Additional documents related to this application may be accessed on the NRC's General Electric Laser Enrichment Facility Licensing Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/laser.html#2a>.

The notice also informs the public that the NRC staff plans to hold two public meetings to discuss the analysis and results of the DEIS on Thursday, July 22, 2010, in Ballroom 5 of the Warwick Center at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28403. The first meeting will convene at 2:30 p.m. and will continue until 5:00 p.m., as necessary. The second meeting will convene at 7:30 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the first meeting, and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. The meetings will be transcribed and will include the following agenda items: (1) a brief presentation summarizing the NRC licensing review, (2) a presentation of the contents of the DEIS, and (3) an opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the draft report. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions 1 hour before the start of each meeting during which members of the public may meet and talk with NRC staff members informally.

As discussed in the DEIS, the NRC staff's preliminary recommendation is that the license should be issued. This preliminary recommendation is based on: (1) the environmental report and supplements submitted by General Electric-Hitachi; (2) consultation with Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies; (3) the staff's independent review; (4) the staff's consideration of comments related to the environmental review that were received during the public scoping process; and (5) the assessments summarized in the DEIS, including the potential mitigation measures identified.

A separate notice of filing of the DEIS will be placed in the *Federal Register* through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Jennifer Davis, Senior Environmental Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-3835, or by e-mail at Jennifer.Davis@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kevin Hsueh, Chief
Environmental Review Branch B
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

Enclosures:

1. *Federal Register* Notice
2. Draft EIS

cc w/enclosures: See next page

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Sincerely,

Kevin Hsueh, Chief
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