

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: / /

EDO CONTROL: G20100517
DOC DT: 09/30/10
FINAL REPLY:

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Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation
(posted on www.CommonDreams.org)

TO:

Commission

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 10-0367

DESC:

Proliferation Issues Related to Laser Isotope
Enrichment (EDATS: SECY-2010-0411)

ROUTING:

Borchardt
Weber
Virgilio
Ash
Mamish
OGC/GC
Frazier, OEDO

DATE: 08/10/10

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NMSS

Haney

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

For Appropriate Action.

Template: SECY-017

E-LIPS: SECY-01

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System

EDATS Number: SECY-2010-0411

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: NMSS

OEDO Due Date: NONE

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: NONE

Subject: Proliferation Issues Related to Laser Isotope Enrichment

Description:

CC Routing: NONE

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20100517, LTR-10-0367

Staff Initiated: NO

Related Task:

Recurring Item: NO

File Routing: EDATS

Agency Lesson Learned: NO

OEDO Monthly Report Item: NO

Process Information

Action Type: Appropriate Action

Priority: Medium

Signature Level: No Signature Required

Sensitivity: None

Approval Level: No Approval Required

Urgency: NO

OEDO Concurrence: NO

OCM Concurrence: NO

OCA Concurrence: NO

Special Instructions: For appropriate action.

Document Information

Originator Name: Acton, Albright, Cochran, Ferguson, Isaacs, Kimball, Pomper, and Spector

Date of Incoming: 9/30/2009

Originating Organization: The Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation

Document Received by SECY Date: 8/10/2010

Addressee: Commission

Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE

Incoming Task Received: Letter

September 30, 2009

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC

Dear Members of the Commission:

We believe the potential demonstration effect on other states from licensing the General Electric-Hitachi Global Laser Enrichment Commercial Facility (Docket No. 70-7016) in Wilmington, North Carolina raises significant proliferation issues. Should the United States be seen to embrace the use of laser isotope enrichment as a commercially viable technology, there can be little question that other states will be strongly encouraged to follow this lead and develop such technology for their own use. Given the great difficulty of detecting laser isotope enrichment facilities, their spread could undermine U.S. nonproliferation efforts and the ability of the International Atomic Energy Agency to confirm the absence of undeclared nuclear activities in nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) non-nuclear-weapon states. The rationale for such concerns is set forth in greater detail in the attached articles by two of the signers.

Accordingly, we request (1) that the Commission makes the potential of this facility to contribute to the spread of laser isotope enrichment technology-and thus to the increased risk of nuclear proliferation-an explicit factor in its decision, and (2) that the Commission prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on the licensing of laser isotope separation facilities that includes specific consideration of the demonstration effect of such U.S. action on international proliferation risks.

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David Albright, President
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Thomas B. Cochran, Senior Scientist,
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Leonard S. Spector, Deputy Director
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The attachments referred to in the letter are:

"Nuclear Power, Disarmament and Technological Restraint" by James Acton, *Survival*, Vol 51 No. 4, August-September 2009, pp.101-126. Retrieved from:
http://carnegieendowment.org/files/acton_survival_aug20091.pdf

"Laser Enrichment: Separation Anxiety," by Jack Boureston and Charles D. Ferguson, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, vol. 61, no. 2, March- April 2005, pp. 14-18. Retrieved from:
<http://thebulletin.metapress.com/content/p3v65u514051j882/fulltext.pdf>