



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

December 2, 2011

Gary J. Laughlin, Chief Nuclear Officer
and Head of Technical Services
Louisiana Energy Services, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 1789
Eunice, NM 88231

**SUBJECT: LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES, L.L.C., URENCO USA FACILITY, DOCKET
NO. 70-3103, AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE AUTOCLAVE 1**

Dear Mr. Laughlin:

This letter confirms our discussion on December 1, 2011, during which you were informed that the NRC has authorized the use of Autoclave 1 for the heating and sampling of uranium hexafluoride cylinders at the Louisiana Energy Services (LES), URENCO USA Facility located in Eunice, New Mexico. This authorization is pursuant to the provisions of Part 70, Paragraph 70.32(k) and Part 40, Paragraph 40.41(g) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) that states, "No person may commence operation of a uranium enrichment facility until the Commission verifies through inspection that the facility has been constructed in accordance with the requirements of the license."

This NRC authorization is based on the results of construction, quality assurance, and operational readiness review inspections of Autoclave 1 which were completed on November 17, 2011. The NRC staff determined that the systems, structures, and components designed to support safe operation of Autoclave 1 were constructed in accordance with the requirements of your license. Specifically, our inspections provided: (1) reasonable assurance that the design, construction, and implementation of items relied on for safety (IROFS) will protect against natural phenomena and the consequences of potential accidents, (2) verification that the Quality Assurance Program was adequately implemented during construction; and (3) verification that the construction of the IROFS was completed in accordance with the documents comprising the license and the Integrated Safety Analysis.

During our inspection, the NRC staff reviewed and inspected structures and equipment, procedures, training, and hazards and safety analyses. The staff also conducted interviews with LES and contractor personnel including employees in operations, technical support and management. The inspection report that provides the details of the results of the review will be issued at a later date.

Please note that this authorization does not apply to any autoclave other than Autoclave 1, and it does not apply to processes or components associated with future phases of facility operations.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," this document and its enclosure may be accessed through ADAMS on the internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/readingrm/adams.html>.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. Joselito Calle at (404) 997-4418.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony T. Gody, Director
Division of Fuel Facility and Inspection

Docket No. 70-3103
License No. SNM-2010

cc:
Perry Robinson, Vice President Regulatory
Affairs
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cc: (Cont'd on page 3)

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cc: (Cont'd on page 3)

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ADAMS: X Yes

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X SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE X FORM 665 ATTACHED

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NAME	DHartland	JCalle	JKinneman	COgle		
DATE	11/30/2011	12/1/2011	12/1/2011	12/1/2011	12/ /2011	12/ /2011
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DNMSI\FFBI\LES\CASCADE
AUTHORIZATIONS\AUTOCLAVE 1.DOCX

cc: (Cont'd)

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Letter to Gary J. Laughlin from Anthony T. Gody dated December 2, 2011

SUBJECT: LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES, L.L.C., URENCO USA FACILITY, DOCKET
NO. 70-3103, AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE AUTOCLAVE 1

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