



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

March 1, 2012

Gary J. Laughlin, Chief Nuclear Officer  
and Head of Technical Services  
Louisiana Energy Services, National Enrichment Facility, 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 INTRODUCE URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE  
INTO CASCADES 1.8, 2.1, and 2.4**

Dear Mr. Laughlin:

This letter confirms our discussion on February 29, 2012, during which you were informed that the NRC has authorized the introduction of uranium hexafluoride into Cascades 1.8, 2.1, and 2.4 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 10 CFR 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 and quality assurance inspections of various aspects of Assay 1 and Assay 2 in Separation Building Module -1001 as described in the inspection reports listed in the enclosure. The NRC staff determined that the systems, structures, and components designed to support safe operation of Cascades 1.8, 2.1, and 2.4, including feed and withdrawal stations, 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 inspections, the NRC staff performed an operational readiness review regarding implementation of IROFS C23 for Cascades 1.8, 2.1, and 2.4 for compliance to Quality Level 1 requirements. The staff also conducted interviews with LES staff and contractor personnel including employees in operations, technical support and management. The publically available inspection reports that describe the construction and quality assurance inspections of Cascades 1.8, 2.1, and 2.4 are accessible through the NRC's public electronic reading room, Agency-wide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.htm> at the accession numbers listed in the enclosure.

G. Laughlin

Please note that this authorization does not apply to any Cascades other than Cascades 1.8, 2.1, and 2.4 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 may be accessed through ADAMS on the internet at [www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.htm](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.htm).

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 Inspection

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

Enclosure:  
Construction and Quality Assurance Inspection Reports for Assay 1 and 2 in SBM-1001 as They Pertain to Cascades 1.8, 2.1, and 2.4

cc w/encl: (See Page 3)

G. Laughlin

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cc w/encl: (See Page 3)

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ADAMS:  Yes    ACCESSION NUMBER: ML12061A069     SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE     FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DFFI	RII:DFFI	NMSS	CCI			
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA/	/RA via e-mail/	/RA/			
NAME	DHartland	JCalle	JKinneman	COgle			
DATE	2/ 29 /2012	2/ 29 /2012	2/ 29 /2012	2/ 29 /2012			
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2    1    AND    2    4    AUTHORIZATION    LETTER    REV    2    (2).DOCX

cc w/encl:

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**Construction and Quality Assurance Inspection Reports for Assay 1 and 2 in SBM-1001  
as They Pertain to Cascades 1.8, 2.1, and 2.4**

<b>Inspection Report Number</b>	<b>ADAMS Accession Number</b>
2006-001	ML070190661
2007-001	ML071440430
2007-002	ML072280647
2007-003	ML073060571
2007-004	ML080670475
2008-001	ML081160345
2008-002	ML081930118
2008-003	ML083040618
2008-004	ML083540709
2008-006	ML090790642
2009-001	ML090850669
2009-002	ML091770643
2009-003	ML092730612
2009-004	ML093511013
2009-006	ML092820188
2010-005	ML100850424
2010-012	ML102020385
2011-002	ML111190268
2012-002	Pending