



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

May 24, 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 CASCADE 1.9

Dear Mr. Laughlin:

This letter confirms our discussion on May 18, 2012, during which the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) authorized the introduction of uranium hexafluoride into Cascade 1.9 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 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 Cascade 1.9, 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.

The publicly available inspection reports that describe the construction and quality assurance inspections of Cascade 1.9 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.

Please note that this authorization does not apply to any Cascades other than Cascade 1.9 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 in SBM-1001 as they  
Pertain to Cascade 1.9

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: ML12145A484       SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE     FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DFFI	RII:DFFI	NMSS				
SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/				
NAME	L. Pitts	J. Calle	J. Kinneman				
DATE	5/22/12	5/23/12	5/24/12				
E-MAIL COPY	YES    NO	YES    NO	YES    NO				

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY      DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DFFI\BRANCH 2\LES\2012\CASCADE 1 9  
AUTHORIZATION LETTER.DOCX

cc w/encl:

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Austin, TX 78756-3189

**Construction and Quality Assurance Inspection Reports for Assay 1 in SBM-1001 as  
They Pertain to Cascade 1.9**

<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
2011-003	ML1120070634
2011-004	ML11301A218
2012-002	ML12121A579
2012-003	Pending

Enclosure