



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

June 10, 2010

David E. Sexton, Chief Nuclear Officer
and Vice President of Operations
National Enrichment Facility
P.O. Box 1789
Eunice, NM 88231

**SUBJECT: LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES, L.L.C., NATIONAL ENRICHMENT FACILITY,
DOCKET 70-3103, AUTHORIZATION TO INTRODUCE URANIUM
HEXAFLUORIDE INTO CASCADE NUMBER 1**

Dear Mr. Sexton:

This letter confirms our discussion of June 10, 2010, during which you were informed that the NRC has authorized the introduction of uranium hexafluoride (UF_6) into Cascade Number 1 at the Louisiana Energy Services, National Enrichment Facility (LES NEF) located in Eunice, New Mexico. This authorization is pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 70.32(k), 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 the operational readiness reviews (ORR) conducted December 2009, through May 2010; and the results of construction and quality assurance inspections conducted since December 2006. These inspections found that the systems, structures, and components of your facility to support safe operation of Cascade Number 1 were constructed in accordance with the requirements of your license. Specifically, our inspections verified: (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) the Quality Assurance Program was adequately implemented during construction; and (3) the construction of the IROFS was completed in accordance with the documents comprising the license application and the Integrated Safety Analysis Summary.

During our inspections, the NRC staff reviewed and inspected the programs, equipment, startup test results, procedures, and hazards and safety analyses. The staff also conducted interviews with LES NEF and contractor personnel including employees in operations, technical support and management. Details from the results of the construction, quality assurance, and ORR inspections are discussed in the inspection reports listed in Enclosure 1. The publically available inspection reports 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.html, at the listed accession numbers.

Please note that this authorization does not apply to any cascade other than Cascade Number 1, and that it does not apply to processes or components associated with future phases of facility operations. Approval to introduce UF_6 into subsequent cascades will be addressed by separate correspondence.

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 <http://www.nrc.gov/readingrm/adams.html>.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Deborah Seymour at (404) 997-4476.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Luis A. Reyes
Regional Administrator

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

Enclosure:
Table 1, LES NEF Inspection Report Number
and the Associated Adams Accession Numbers

cc w/encl: (See next page)

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cc w/encl: (See next page)

■ PUBLICLY AVAILABLE □ NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE □ SENSITIVE ■ NON-SENSITIVE

ADAMS: ■ Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: ML101610767 ■ SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE

OFFICE	RII:DCP	RII: DCP	RII:DCP	RII:DFFI	HQ:NMSS	HQ:NMSS	HQ: NMSS
SIGNATURE	DAS	RPC	ATG	JS	CH via email	MT via e-mail	MBvia e-mail
NAME	D. Seymour	R. Croteau	T. Gody	J. Shea	C. Haney	M. Tschiltz	M. Bailey
DATE	6/2/10	6/2/10	6/2/10	6/2/10	6/10/10	6/7/10	6/7/10
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO
OFFICE	RII:DRAC/CCI	HQ:NMSS	RII:DCI				
SIGNATURE	LPR	DD via e-mail	CRO				
NAME	L. Plisco	D.Dorman	C. Ogle				
DATE	6/2/10	6/2/10	5/29/10				
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY DOCUMENT NAME: G:\CC\DCP\CPB1\LES NEF\ORR LES 2009 AND 2010\FINAL ORR DOCUMENTS\LES DRAFT AUTHOR LETTER.DOC

cc w/encl:

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Affairs Director
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Perry Robinson, LES General Counsel
Louisiana Energy Services, L.L.C.
National Enrichment Facility
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Letter to David Sexton from Luis Reyes, dated June 10, 2010

SUBJECT: LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES, L.L.C., NATIONAL ENRICHMENT FACILITY,
DOCKET 70-3103, AUTHORIZATION TO INTRODUCE URANIUM
HEXAFLUORIDE INTO CASCADE NUMBER 1

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D. Hartland, RII
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Table 1

Inspection Report (IR) Numbers for Louisiana Energy Services, L.L.C., National Enrichment Facility (LES NEF, Docket No: 70-3103) and the Associated Adams Accession Numbers for the IRs	
IR NUMBER	ADAMS NUMBER
IR 2006-001	ML070190661
IR 2007-001	ML071440430
IR 2007-002	ML072280647
IR 2007-003	ML073060571
IR 2007-004	ML080670475
IR 2008-001	ML081160345
IR 2008-002	ML081930118
In Office Review	ML080670488
IR 2008-003	ML083040618
IR 2008-004	ML083540709
IR 2008-005	ML090610203
IR 2008-006	ML090790642
IR 2009-001	ML090850669
IR 2009-002	ML091770643
IR 2009-003	ML092730612
IR 2009-004	ML093511013
IR 2009-006	ML092820188
IR 2009-007 (ORRs)	ML100271177
IR 2009-008 (ORRs)	ML100770218
IR 2010-005 (ORRs)	ML100850424
IR 2010-006 (ORRs)	ML101230475
IR 2010-007 (ORRs)	ML100900329
IR 2010-008 (ORRs)	ML101170813
IR 2010-009 (ORRs)	ML101300087
IR 2010-010 (ORRs)	ML101480080
IR 2010-201 (ORRs) (MC&A)	Not publicly available ML101190123
IR 2010-202 (ORRs)	ML 101480060
IR 2010-401 (ORRs) (Physical Security)	Not publicly available ML100650006