UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 14, 2017

Ms. Pat Jenny
Security and Licensing Manager
Global Laser Enrichment, LLC
3901 Castle Hayne Road
Wilmington, NC 28402-0780

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF GENERIC LETTER 2015-01, "TREATMENT OF NATURAL PHENOMENA HAZARDS IN FUEL CYCLE FACILITIES," FOR THE GENERAL ELECTRIC-HITACHI GLOBAL LASER ENRICHMENT PLANT

Dear Ms. Jenny:

On June 22, 2015, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 2015-01, "Treatment of Natural Phenomena Hazards in Fuel Cycle Facilities" (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession Number ML14328A029). The GL-2015-01 was issued for two purposes: (1) to request that addressees submit information to demonstrate compliance with regulatory requirements and applicable license conditions regarding the treatment of natural phenomena events in the facilities' integrated safety analysis (ISA); and (2) to determine if additional NRC regulatory action is necessary to ensure that licensees comply with their licensing basis and existing NRC regulations.

By letter dated October 16, 2015, General Electric-Hitachi Global Laser Enrichment, LLC (GLE) responded to GL-2015-01 (ADAMS Accession Number ML15338A039) for their planned laser-based uranium enrichment plant. The NRC staff completed an evaluation of GLE's analysis of natural phenomena hazards (NPH) during the initial licensing review. The results are documented in NUREG-2120, "Safety Evaluation Report for the General Electric-Hitachi Global Laser Enrichment LLC Laser-Based Uranium Enrichment Plant in Wilmington, North Carolina" (ADAMS Accession Number ML12060A007).

Once construction begins at the facility, the NRC staff will perform inspections of the construction activities to ensure that the facility is capable of withstanding credible natural phenomena events. The facility will be inspected in accordance with Inspection Manual Chapter (IMC) 2694, "Fuel Cycle Facility Construction and Operational Readiness Review Inspection Program" (ADAMS Accession Number ML17069A203). IMC 2694 has been updated to define the construction inspection program for fuel cycle facilities constructing per a license issued under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) Part 70, "Domestic Licensing of Special Nuclear Material" or under 10 CFR Part 40, "Domestic Licensing of Source Material." A sample of the inspection activities includes the verification of the installation and construction of items relied on for safety related to NPH accident sequences. The results of the inspections will be documented in quarterly inspection reports.

The NRC staff has concluded that GLE has performed appropriate evaluations of NPH for the planned laser-based uranium enrichment plant based on GLE's previous NPH assessment. As a result, GL-2015-01 is considered closed and no further information or action is requested.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records System component of the NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.

Sincerely,

/RA BSmith for/

Craig G. Erlanger, Director
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards,
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 70-7016

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DATED: September 14, 2017

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