



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II

245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

November 17, 2017

Stephen Cowne, Chief Nuclear Officer
and Compliance Manager
URENCO USA
P.O. Box 1789
Eunice, NM 88231

**SUBJECT: LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES, L.L.C., URENCO USA FACILITY, DOCKET
NUMBER 70-3103, AUTHORIZATION TO INTRODUCE URANIUM
HEXAFLUORIDE INTO CASCADE 6.3**

Dear Mr. Cowne:

On November 8, 2017, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received your letter requesting authorization to initiate feed inlet and commence operation of Assay 6, Cascade 3 (Cascade 6.3) at the Louisiana Energy Services, URENCO USA Facility located in Eunice, New Mexico (ADAMS Accession Number ML17318A092). This letter confirms the U.S. NRC's authorization (provided verbally on November 9, 2017) to introduce uranium hexafluoride into Cascade 6.3 for normal and re-feed operations. This authorization is pursuant to the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 70, Paragraph 70.32(k) and 10 CFR 40.41(g) 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 6 in Separation Building Module (SBM)-1005, previous operational readiness reviews performed for other cascades in SBM-1005, and the review of testing results to support operation of Cascade 6.3 completed on November 9, 2017. The results of construction and quality assurance inspections, and previous operational readiness reviews for other cascades in SBM-1005, are documented in several inspection reports listed in the enclosure to this letter (Enclosure). The inspection results for the operational readiness review of Cascade 6.3 will be documented in NRC Inspection Report 70-3103/2017-005, which should be issued no later than February 14, 2018.

The NRC staff determined that the systems, structures, and components designed to support safe operation of Cascade 6.3 were constructed in accordance with the requirements of your license. Specifically, our inspections verified that there was reasonable assurance that: (1) 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 and the Integrated Safety Analysis Summary.

Please note that this authorization does not apply to any Cascades other than Cascade 6.3, and it does not apply to processes or components associated with future phases of facility operations.

In accordance with Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. Marvin Sykes at 404-997-4629.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark S. Lesser, Director
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection

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

Enclosure:
List of Inspection Reports for the Construction,
Quality Assurance, and Operational Readiness
Reviews Supporting the Authorization of
Cascade 6.3

cc: (See page 3)

cc:

Butch Tongate, Deputy Secretary
New Mexico Department of Environment
Office of the Secretary
1190 St. Francis Drive
P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0157

Matt White, Mayor
City of Eunice
P.O. Box 147/1106 Ave J
Eunice, NM 88231

The Honorable Sam D. Cobb, Mayor
City of Hobbs
200 E. Broadway
Hobbs, NM 88240

Cheryl Chance, Mayor
City of Jal
P.O. Drawer 340
Jal, NM 88252

Chair Ron R. Black
Lea County Board of County Commissioners
Lea County Courthouse
100 North Main Avenue, Suite 4
Lovington, NM 88260

Daniel F. Stenger, Counsel
Hogan and Hartson
555 13th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Santiago Rodriguez, Chief
Radiation Controls Bureau
NM Environment Department
PO Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

cc: (Cont'd on page 4)

(cc: cont'd)

David Sexton, Managing Director UUSA,
President and Chief Executive Officer
Louisiana Energy Services, LLC
URENCO USA
P.O. Box 1789
Eunice, NM 88231
Dave.Sexton@Urenco.com

Clint Williamson, Director
Community Affairs and Government Relations
Louisiana Energy Services, LLC
URENCO USA
P.O. Box 1789
Eunice, NM 88231
Clint.Williamson@urenco.com

Perry Robinson, Outside General Counsel
URENCO USA
P.O. Box 1789
Eunice, NM 88231

Richard A. Ratliff, PE, LMP
Radiation Program Officer
Bureau of Radiation Control
Department of State Health Services
Division for Regulatory Services
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756-3189

SUBJECT: LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES, L.L.C., URENCO USA FACILITY, DOCKET NUMBER 70-3103, AUTHORIZATION TO INTRODUCE URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE INTO CASCADE 6.3

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C. Erlanger, NMSS
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 M. Raddatz, NMSS
 M. Sykes, RII
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PUBLICLY AVAILABLE NON-PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SENSITIVE NON-SENSITIVE

ADAMS: Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: ML17321A004 SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE FORM 665 ATTACHED

OFFICE	RII:DFFI	RII:DFFI	RII:DFFI				
SIGNATURE	/RA/ via email	/RA/ via email	/RA/				
NAME	KKirchbaum	JRivera	MSykes				
DATE	11/ 9 /2017	11/09/2017	11/ 17/2017				
E-MAIL COPY	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO				

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DFFI\PROJECTS BRANCH 1\LES - URENCO\2017\CASCADE 6.3 AUTHORIZATION LETTER.DOCX

List of Inspection Reports for the Construction, Quality Assurance, and Operational Readiness Reviews Supporting the Authorization of Cascade 6.3

Report Number	ADAMS Accession Number	Inspection Area(s)
2006001	ML070190661	Quality Assurance Program and Geotechnical/Foundation Activities
2007001	ML071440430	Quality Assurance
2007002	ML072280647	Quality Assurance, Geotechnical/Foundation Activities, and Structural Concrete Activities
2007003	ML073060571	Quality Assurance, Structural Concrete Activities, 10 CFR Part 21 Inspection-Facility Construction, and Safety Function Interfaces
2007004	ML080670475	Quality Assurance
2008001	ML081160345	Quality Assurance, 10 CFR Part 21 Inspection-Facility Construction, Structural Concrete Activities (SBM), and Structural Steel and Support Activities (SBM)
2008002	ML081930118	Quality Assurance, Safety Function Interfaces, Geotechnical and Foundation Activities (SBM), Structural Concrete Activities (SBM-1001), Structural Steel and Support Activities, and Structural Welding
2008003	ML083040618	Quality Assurance (SBM-1001), 10 CFR Part 21- Facility Construction, Geotechnical and Foundation Activities, Structural Concrete Activities, Structural Steel and Support Activities (SBM), Structural Welding (SBM-1001)
2008004	ML083540709	Quality Assurance (SBM)
2008005	ML090610203	Quality Assurance
2008006	ML090790642	Quality Assurance
2009001	ML090850669	Quality Assurance
2009002	ML091770643	Nuclear Welding General (SBM), Structural Welding General, Geotechnical and Foundation Activities, Structural Concrete Activities (SBM), Structural Steel and Support Activities, and Quality Assurance (SBM-1001)
2009003	ML092730612	Quality Assurance, Structural Concrete Activities, and Structural Steel and Support Activities
2009004	ML093511013	Electrical Components and Systems
2009006	ML092820188	Quality Assurance (SBM)
2009007	ML100271177	Quality Assurance (SBM)
2010001	ML101810503	Quality Assurance, Geotechnical and Foundation Activities, Structural Concrete Activities, Structural Steel and Support Activities, and Instrumentation and Control Systems
2010002	ML102700390	Quality Assurance (SBM), Geotechnical and Foundation Activities (SBM-1003), Structural Concrete Activities (SBM-1001 and SBM-1003), and Mechanical Components (Cascades 5 and 6)
2010003	ML103510562	Quality Assurance, 10 CFR Part 21- Facility Construction, and Structural Concrete Activities (SBM-1001)
2010004	ML110130336	Maintenance Observations (Cascade 2)
2010005	ML100850424	Quality Assurance, Electrical Components and Systems (SBM-1001), Geotechnical and Foundation Activities (SBM-1001), Structural Concrete Activities (SBM-1001), and Structural Concrete Activities (SBM-1001)
2010007	ML100900329	Quality Assurance (SBM-1001), Mechanical Components (SBM-1001)

Report Number	ADAMS Accession Number	Inspection Area(s)
2010008	ML101170813	Quality Assurance (SBM-1001, Cascade 1)
2010009	ML101300087	Reactive inspection to evaluate the Commercial Grade Dedication Program
2010010	ML101480080	Quality Assurance (Cascades 2 and 3 in SBM-1001)
2010012	ML102020385	Quality Assurance (Cascades 2 and 3 in SBM-1001)
2010013	ML102320298	Quality Assurance (Cascades 3 in SBM-1001)
2010015	ML103560272	Quality Assurance (Cascades 1,2, and 3), Geotechnical and Foundation Activities (SBM-1003), Structural Concrete Activities (SBM-1003), Mechanical Components (Cascade 3), and Electrical Components and Systems (Assay Line 2)
2011002	ML111190268	Quality Assurance (SBM-1003 and SBM-1001 Extension), Structural Steel and Supports Activities (SBM-1003), and Mechanical Components
2011003	ML112070634	Quality Assurance (Assay 2)
2011004	ML11301A218	Quality Assurance, Structural Concrete Activities (SBM 1003) and Instrumentation and Control Systems
2011005	ML12030A239	Quality Assurance, Safety Function Interfaces and 10 CFR Part 21 Inspection - Facility Construction
2011006	ML11090A037	Quality Assurance (Cascade 3, SBM-1001) Mechanical Components (Cascade 3)
2011008	ML111660886	Quality Assurance (Cascade 4 in SBM-1001) and Mechanical Components (Cascade 4)
2011009	ML11342A131	Quality Assurance (Cascades 1.5 and 1.6 in SBM-1001), Structural Concrete Activities (SBM-1003), and Mechanical Components (Cascades 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 2.1, and 2.5)
2011011	ML11263A098	Quality Assurance (Cascades 3 and 4)
2011012	ML113410075	Quality Assurance (Cascades 1.7 and 1.8) and Mechanical Components (Cascades 1.7, 1.8, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4)
2011013	ML12025A286	Quality Assurance (Cascade 1.6 and 1.7 in SBM-1001) and Structural Steel Welding and Mechanical Components (Cascades 1.7 and 1.8)
2012002	ML12121A579	Safety Operations (Review of Item Relied on for Safety (IROFS) C23 for Cascade 1.8, and 2.1 thru 2.8) and Construction (Cascade 1.7)
2012003	ML12188A105	Safety Operations (Review of IROFS C23 for Cascade 1.9, 1.10 and 1.11) and Geotechnical/Foundation (SBM-1003)
2012004	ML12304A009	Safety Operations (IROFS C23 Review for TC 21 centrifuges in Cascade 3.1) and Structural Steel (SBM-1003)
2012005	ML13030A027	Quality Assurance and Safety Operations (IROFS C23 Review for Cascades 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6)
2013002	ML13116A175	Safety Operations (IROFS C23 Review of TC 12 for Cascades 1.1 through 1.7), Safety Operations (IROFS C23 Review of TC 21 for Cascades 3.7, 3.8, and 3.9), and Geotechnical Foundation (SBM-1005)
2013003	ML13210A291	Safety Operations (IROFS C23 Review of TC 21 for Cascades 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, and 4.1) and Structural Concrete (SBM-1005)
2013004	ML13305A074	Safety Operations (IROFS C23 Review of TC 21 for Cascades 4.2, 4.3 and 4.5)

Report Number	ADAMS Accession Number	Inspection Area(s)
2013005	ML14031A285	Safety Operations (IROFS C23 Review of TC 21 for Cascades 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8), Structural Concrete (SBM-1005), and Structural Steel and Support Activities (SBM-1005)
2013006	ML13214A141	Quality Assurance (SBM-1005) and Safety Function Interfaces (SBM-1005)
2014002	ML14115A022	Safety Operations (IROFS C23 Review of TC 21 for Cascades 4.9, 4.10, and 4.11)
2014003	ML14202A003	Safety Operations (IROFS C23 Review of TC 21 for Cascade 4.12)
2014005	ML15029A031	Quality Assurance (SBM-1005) and Safety Operations (Operational Readiness Review for SBM-1005)
2015002	ML15111A280	Plant Operations of SBM-1005 and Safety Operations (IROFS C23 Review of TC 21 for Cascade 5.1 through 5.4)
2015003	ML15210A003	Safety Operations (IROFS C23 Review of TC 21 for Cascade 5.5 through 5.8)
2015004	ML15301A020	Safety Operations (IROFS C23 Review of TC 21 for Cascade 5.9, 5.10, and 6.1)
2015006	ML15058A712	Structural Concrete Activities (SBM-1005)
2017002	ML17115A005	Safety Operations (IROFS C23 Review of TC 21 for Cascade 5.12)
2017005	Pending	Safety Operations (IROFS C23 Review of TC 21 for Cascade 6.3)