

QUESTION 5. What effect have similar facilities throughout the country had on contiguous water tables and on other environmentally and economically important resources such as air quality and property values?

ANSWER.

Effluent and environmental monitoring at NRC-licensed uranium conversion and fuel fabrication plants indicates that there have been no significant adverse effects on groundwater (water tables) and air quality from routine operation of the uranium hexafluoride handling portions of these plants, which are similar to the proposed LES plant. Though the chemical processing portion of these plants has resulted in local impacts on groundwater resources, the LES facility is not expected to cause such impacts because it will not employ these chemical processes. Accidental releases of uranium hexafluoride from these plants, including the 1986 release associated with the rupture of a 14-ton uranium hexafluoride cyclinder at the Sequoyah Fuels Corporation plant in Gore, Oklahoma, have resulted in only short-term effects on air quality in the immediate vicinity of the plants. We do not have any information about the impacts of these plants on property values.