



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

OCT 18 1990

Project No. M-45

MEMORANDUM FOR: Charles J. Haughney, Chief
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

FROM: Peter Loysen, Licensing Project Manager
Advanced Fuel and Special
Facilities Section
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES

The NRC staff met with representatives of Louisiana Energy Services (LES) on October 5, 1990, to discuss the staff's readiness to review an application for the LES uranium enrichment plant pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 40 and 70, and to hear a further proposal to consider LES' Licensing Review Bases document. In addition, Mr. Bernero expounded the importance of LES dealing in its environmental report with the disposition of UF₆ tails. A list of meeting attendees is enclosed.

In anticipation of the passage of uranium enrichment legislation which would result in NRC licensing of the proposed LES plant pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 40 and 70 rather than Part 50, LES was concerned that time-consuming rule changes and other actions might be required before NRC could review its application. The staff stated that it believes no substantive rule changes would be required, although conforming amendments to various Parts, which would take less time to promulgate, might be necessary. To avoid unnecessary delay, the Commission could order the staff to proceed with review of the application while such amendments are being prepared. In addition, as indicated in previous meetings with LES, the Commission will be asked to approve a Federal Register notice announcing receipt of the application, opportunity for hearing, and direction to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, particularly with respect to dealing with a proceeding on a combined construction permit/operating license application.

LES suggested that a technical roadmap for the applicability of 10 CFR Parts 40 and 70 to uranium enrichment regulation might be desirable. Although the staff indicated that it would have limited use, LES said that it intended to prepare such a roadmap for its own use and would submit it for possible consideration. The roadmap likely would be organized in a manner similar to that of LES' Licensing Review Bases document, which LES again suggested should be adopted by the staff in connection with review pursuant to 10 CFR Part 50. The staff reiterated that it would use the criteria provided in the Advance

LIST OF ATTENDEES

LES, Partners, and Counsel

H. Arnold
J. DiStefano
P. LeRoy
J. MacEvoy
M. McGarry
M. Rowden

NRC

R. Bangart
R. Bernero
R. Burnett
R. Cunningham
C. Haughney
P. Loysen
S. Treby

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Charles J. Haughney

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Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in connection with applicable Regulatory Guides and other guidance, and would not be bound by the Licensing Review Bases document.

Mr. Bernero took the opportunity of the meeting with LES to discourse on the disposition of UF₆ tails from uranium enrichment plants in general, and the proposed LES plant in particular. He pointed out that tails disposition must be addressed in the environmental report as well as in the safety analysis report and financial assurance for decommissioning. While the world-wide practice is to store tails, either as UF₆ or U₃O₈, and consider them a resource or asset, there is an overabundance of tails for any foreseeable purpose. If they are considered waste, there is presently no option for their disposal. Sites for the disposal of high-level waste, low-level waste, or mill tailings would not normally accept tails under existing definitions or arrangements. Mr. Bernero mentioned the possibility that tails might be mixed in low concentrations with mill tailings without increased environmental impact, but he saw no ready solutions to the dilemma.

Original signed by
Peter Loysen

Peter Loysen, Licensing Project Manager
Advanced Fuel and Special
Facilities Section
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch
Division of Industrial and
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

Enclosure:
List of Attendees

bcc: M. McDaniel, LADEQ

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[BERNERO LES MEETING]

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