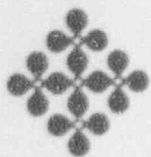


70-3070

Engineers & Consultants



**Gasser
Associates**

17904 Georgia Avenue - Suite 316 - Olney, Maryland 20832 - (301) 924-3900

December 16, 1993

Mr. John W. N. Hickey
Chief, Enrichment Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Centrifuge Enrichment Facility
Claiborne Parish, LA

Dear Mr. Hickey:

I have read the summary report of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the subject facility and have reviewed some of the evaluations which deal with the economic effects on the area during construction, operation and later decommissioning.

Some years ago, I was a principal member of a team which evaluated the environmental and safety effects of a commercial nuclear decontamination facility on a community which contained two hospitals. The license limits for the decon facility applied to the mixed radionuclides on the surfaces of tools and equipment brought in for cleaning and decontamination and to any radioactive materials dissolved in or suspended in the cleaning solutions, process filters, tanks and piping. The license limit for the commercial decontamination facility was 10 Curies, compared to 3,000 and 10,000 Curies for the radiopharmaceuticals possessed by the two nearby hospitals. All of the licensed facilities were within the area which the commercial decontamination facility had to consider in its safety and environmental impact analyses.

Needless to say, there was some effort devoted by some people in the community to block the license for the commercial decontamination facility. However, when all the facts were in and the comparisons were made with the hospital usage, security and safeguards of their radioactive materials, there was little left for the opponents to argue about on any rational basis.

9312300119 931216
PDR ADOCK 07003070
C PDR

*LF03
110*

230084

Mr. John W. N. Hickey

December 16, 1993

Page

As for the Claiborne enrichment facility, it is apparent that there are only advantages. There are no identifiable disadvantages. Therefore, I strongly urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to support the findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and proceed as expeditiously as possible with the licensing process for the Claiborne enrichment facility. There are very strong technical, economic and strategic reasons for doing so.

Sincerely,



James V. Weely
Senior Staff Consultant

cc: John K. Jones, USCEA

MIS\NRC0360.JN