

70-3070

December 14, 1993

John W. N. Hickey
Chief, Enrichment Branch
Div. of Fuel Cycle Safety & Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards
Mail Stop 4-E-4 USNRC
Washington, DC 20555

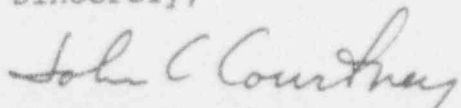
Dear Mr. Hickey:

Recently, I reviewed some of the data contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Clairborne Enrichment Center (CEC). It seems to me that the CEC will be a valuable asset and an important economic factor in North Louisiana. Based on the projections in the DEIS, Clairborne Parish would benefit in both the short and long term by the construction and operation of this facility. Even though my wife and I live some distance away in Baton Rouge, we will benefit by the influx of jobs and tax revenue to our state. Also, our environment will be the beneficiary of a new (to Louisiana) non-polluting industry, uranium enrichment.

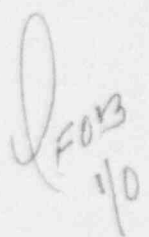
We are excited about attracting such a plant; it will contribute to the Nation's Energy Program and help to contain costs of generating electricity. Since it will handle naturally-occurring radioactive materials, there should be only small radiological impacts on the environment even in the event of a serious accident. If the process material, UF₆, reacts with the moist air (about the only kind we have in Louisiana) it can form corrosive compounds, but the effects would be localized and easily mitigated. In fact, the value of the material in process, UF₆, is such that tight control on releases will be maintained for economic reasons. The design of the CEC has considered tornados, floods, and other potential natural events. Safety features abound to protect workers as well as the public. There is a wealth of experience in operating uranium enrichment plants in this country and abroad. By incorporating that experience with the appropriate equipment, the operators will have an efficient, environmentally benign plant.

We believe that the CEC will be a tremendous boost to our economy with negligible adverse environmental impacts. We would have no objection to living close to it or even working there. Please do what you can to expedite the construction and operation of this important installation and let us know if there will be hearings on the CEC in the Baton Rouge area.

Sincerely,



John C. Courtney
10326 Hackberry Court
Baton Rouge, LA 70809



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