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December 17, 1993

John W. N. Hickey
Chief, Enrichment Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Mailstop 4-E-4
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Hickey:

This letter is in reply to the recently published Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the construction and operation of the proposed uranium enrichment center within Claiborne Parish in Northern Louisiana. I write this as a retired AEC/DOE employee and former DuPont employee at the Savannah River Plant in Aiken, SC.

I wish to register my unqualified support for the facility. After reading the statement it is difficult to imagine legitimate arguments that would disqualify the facility. On the positive side, I believe it is essential, in the national interest, that we have a modern facility capable of processing uranium ore for the purposes of producing fuel for our nuclear electric power generators. With the closing of the gaseous diffusion facilities I strongly believe we should move forward with this centrifuge technology facility. It would be unthinkable not to have petroleum refineries for our oil wells and imports, yet I doubt the environmental impact is anymore severe. The radiological impact is negligible.

The other major positive impact is the economic boost it brings to an area that has long been underdeveloped. No doubt there will be some dislocations caused by the facility as there always is with change and growth.

One of my reasons for responding is the concern that the anti-nuclear activists will mount a negative letter writing campaign and I am concerned about how the Commission goes about assessing the responses. In other words does the volume of mail determine the decision?

We hope the NRC will make a positive decision in this matter.

Sincerely,

Harold H. Young
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