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Northern States Power Company

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December 20, 1993

Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards
Mail Stop 4-E-4
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Chief, Enrichment Branch

Subject: **Support for Construction and Operation of the Claiborne Enrichment Center**

Dear Chief:

Northern States Power Company (NSP) supports the construction and operation of the Claiborne Enrichment Center (CEC) as proposed by Louisiana Energy Services. The CEC will provide a second source of North American enrichment services which will foster competition resulting in benefits to U.S. rate payers. Since there are currently only three primary producers of enrichment services in the western world, the CEC will also address utilities' concern on continued and reliable supply of this vital component of the nuclear fuel cycle.

In view of your conclusion published in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that the "facility can be constructed and operated with small and acceptable impacts on the public and the environment", NSP would be pleased to see an operating CEC as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Louis P. Matis
Director, Fuel Resources

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