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# AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY

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January 21, 1994

Mr. 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, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Hickey:

On behalf of the American Nuclear Society (ANS), and its more than 17,000 members, I wish to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operation of the Claiborne Enrichment Center (the "DEIS"). In the review of the DEIS, we found nothing contained therein that was inaccurate or inappropriate. In fact, the DEIS could be issued as final in its present form. Further, the ANS strongly supports the efforts of Louisiana Energy Services in the construction and operation of an advanced technology for the enrichment of uranium for use in nuclear power plants. This advanced technology, the gaseous centrifuge, has been proven through many years (in one case, for more than 30 years) in Europe, the Russian Federation and Japan. In comparison to the gaseous diffusion technology utilized by the United States Enrichment Corporation, it uses less than 1/20th of the electric energy of the gaseous diffusion technology, thus showing itself to be more environmentally friendly.

Further, this diversification of domestic enrichment supply should be of benefit to the nuclear electric utilities, in that they are now provided a choice between domestic sources of enrichment services. Adding to the benefit is the location of the Claiborne Enrichment Center, in an area that is economically depressed and hence will provide a better quality of life to the local residents.

In summary, the ANS sees no technical or other issues that have not been fully addressed in the DEIS and that are not readily and easily within the bounds of public safety and environmental impact. We strongly support the Claiborne Enrichment Center.

Very truly yours,

Edward D. Fuller

xc: ANS Board of Directors  
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