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January 24, 1994

Chief, Enrichment Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Mail Stop 4-E-4  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am extremely concerned that the DEIS on the Louisiana Energy Services (LES) uranium enrichment plant fails to consider the plant's social and economic impact on the communities of Forest Grove and Center Springs in Louisiana, which are low-income and predominantly black.

I cannot stress too greatly that the DEIS is incomplete and that the final Environmental Impact Statement on LES must consider all the social and economic impacts on the two rural communities.

The Louisiana Energy Services uranium enrichment plant project is fraught with economic question marks, environmental hazards, and questions of racism. Among the concerns are:

1. Environmental racism - In 1987 the United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice released its report Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States. Statistics from this report and other studies indicate that an overwhelmingly disproportionate number of toxic waste sites, incinerators, and hazardous chemical and industrial operations are sited in poor, minority communities. LES also plans to close and reroute the only road that services Forest Grove and Center Springs.

2. Contamination - Polluting water from the plant will be discharged into the nearby Lake Claiborne watershed. Forty homes within five miles of the facility rely on wells for their drinking water. A retirement community surrounds the shores of Lake Claiborne. Uranium hexafluoride (UF6) mixes with air to create toxic hydrogen fluoride. Elderly residents living near the plant are without transportation and are concerned about how rapidly they can flee the area in the event of an accidental UF6 discharge.

3. Need - Currently the Department of Energy's enrichment plants are only operating at 50% of capacity. DOE is considering utilizing advanced technologies to enrich uranium which pose no proliferation threat. Additionally, there is already a worldwide overcapacity for producing enriched uranium. The cost for LES' enriched uranium is higher than for the DOE's.

I respectfully request that you inform me as to what steps you intend to take in order that I may inform the head offices of Global Response and of Greenpeace USA.

Sincerely,

*Louis S. Campbell*  
Louis S. Campbell

Member, Global Response  
Member, Greenpeace USA

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