



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

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MAR 7 1994

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

Dear Mr. Hickey:

The Department of the Interior has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operation of the Claiborne Enrichment Center in Homer, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, and has the following comments.

General

If the proposed operational safety and environmental monitoring programs are implemented in accordance with the specifications in the draft statement, we believe impacts to fish and wildlife resources will likely be negligible.

Hazardous Waste

The final statement should contain an estimate of hazardous waste materials generated during construction together with a description of the construction processes generating the waste, particularly mercury.

Specific Comments

Page 3-41, Section 3.3.2 - The estimates of groundwater flow times attributed to the Louisiana Energy Services (reference 1993b) appear to be excessively high and cannot be verified using the hydraulic conductivity values on page 3-37 and the location map of Figure 3.13 on page 3-40. This issue should be resolved in the final statement.

Page 3-36, Section 3.5.2.4 - As noted in this section, no threatened or endangered species presently occur within the proposed project area. Because the project will be implemented over an extended period, we suggest that this section be reviewed to include the following language:

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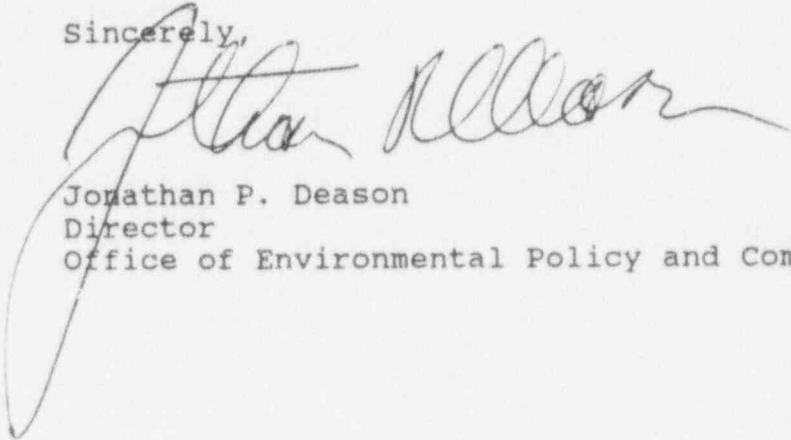
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Further endangered species consultation will not be required unless the scope or location of the proposed project is changed, or project construction has not been initiated within 1 year. If project construction has not been initiated within 1 year, followup consultation will be accomplished prior to making expenditures for construction. If the scope or location of the proposed work is changed, consultation will occur when such changes are made.

For further endangered species information, or to reinstate consultation, please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 825 Kaliste Saloom, Suite 102, Lafayette, Louisiana, 70508; telephone (318) 262-6630.

We hope these comments will be helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Jonathan P. Deason
Director
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance