October 2, 1990

Mr. Robert M. Bernero, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

RE: Project M-45

Dear Mr. Bernero:

I have studied correspondence generated by you and Mr. Toney Johnson, C.A.N.T. Members, and local opponents of the proposed L.E.S. uranium enrichment plant in Homer, Louisiana, and I am interested in the NRC's licensing procedure.

Assuming that L.E.S. does submit its license application in January, 1991, and the present Atomic Energy Act prevails, will or will not any decision rendered by your commission be precedent setting, insofar as this license application will be the first of its kind by an entity in the private sector? Will your reviews be altered or geared to meet the unique nature of the first privately owned enrichment facility as opposed to a governmentally owned and operated facility? Do you have assurance as of now that by January, 1991, that the Atomic Energy Act will be amended to accommodate action on this first-of-its-kind license application? Do you anticipate or have reason to believe that the L.E.S. consortium will be foreign owned, dominated and controlled? Do you anticipate or have reason to believe that provisions for financial protection of the public with indemnification will be a requirement in the licensing procedure? If not, why not?

According to statements published and attributed to Mr. Priory, Vice-President, Duke Power, L.E.S. has had several meetings with the NRC over the past one to one and a half years. Why, in your opinion, could Mr. Priory after these meetings with your commission predict as early as January, 1990, in NUCLEAR INDUSTRY Magazine that L.E.S. would receive expeditious review of its license application? In the event of future public hearings will information be available to the public which could shed light on his optimistic statement?

Also, I will appreciate your sharing with me any information you have at this time relative to L.E.S.' financial qualifications and management capabilities.

Thank you for answering my questions.

Sincerely,

Rudy Grafton

RG/ebg

cc: Representative Morris Udall, Chairman House Interior Committee U.S. House of Representatives H2 3331 Annex #2 Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative George Miller, Chairman, Water & Power
House Interior Committee
U. S. House of Representatives
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Mr. William S. Lee, President Duke Power Company 422 South Church Street P. O. Box 33189 Charlotte, North Carolina 28242