



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 26, 1997

The Honorable John Breaux
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Breaux:

I am responding to your June 3, 1997, letter forwarding your constituent's concerns about the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's final initial decision, LBP-97-8, in connection with the application of Louisiana Energy Services to construct and operate the Claiborne Enrichment Center. The Board's decision, which addresses environmental justice, was served on May 2, 1997.

The matter of Louisiana Energy Services' application to construct and operate a uranium enrichment plant in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, including the issue of environmental justice, is still the subject of an ongoing formal adjudication before the Agency. The Commission, which sits as an adjudicatory appellate body, currently has before it petitions to review LBP-97-8. Therefore, I trust you will understand why the Commission cannot respond, at this time, to the substance of your constituent's concerns without raising questions of prejudgment. Your constituent, Mr. J. T. Taylor, will be advised of the Commission's decisions on this matter at a later date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis K. Rathbun".

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

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