UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS:

Ho K. Nieh, Chairman
David A. Wright
Bradley R. Crowell
Matthew J. Marzano
Douglas W. Weaver

In the Matter of GLOBAL LASER ENRICHMENT, LLC (Paducah Laser Enrichment Facility)	Docket No. 70-7033-ML

CLI-26-16

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

On August 26, 2026, the Commission issued an order in the above-captioned docket terminating the mandatory hearing in this proceeding and reopening the record of the contested proceeding associated with the Global Laser Enrichment, LLC (GLE) license application. As the Commission explained in that order, the contested proceeding constitutes the on-the-record hearing required by section 193(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (AEA), as amended, for the application.[1]

In this contested proceeding, two petitioners sought to intervene, proposing contentions challenging the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the GLE application. The Board denied their hearing requests, finding that neither petitioner had demonstrated standing or

[1] CLI-26-12, 104 NRC __, __ (Aug. 26, 2026) (slip op. at 2 & n.3).

offered an admissible contention.[2] One petitioner, Kentucky Resources Council, Inc. (KRC), appealed the Board's decision.[3] On October 22, 2026, we issued an order affirming the Board's ruling and denying KRC's appeal.[4]

On October 23, 2026, the Staff issued the final EIS for the GLE application.[5] The Staff found that the potential environmental impacts of issuing the requested license to GLE would be small to moderate for four resource areas—surface water, ecology, transportation, and socioeconomics (a largely positive effect)—and small for all other resource areas.[6] After weighing the environmental, economic, technical, and other benefits against environmental costs, and considering the alternatives, the Staff recommended the issuance of the license to authorize GLE to possess and use special nuclear material to enrich uranium, contingent upon completion of the Staff's safety review.[7] The Staff based its recommendation on GLE's application, including the environmental report, safety analysis report, and GLE's responses to the Staff's clarification requests; the Staff's consultation with Federal, State, Tribal, and local

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[2] LBP-26-7, 104 NRC __, __ (July 9, 2026) (slip op. at 7, 11, 13-21, 24, 26-27).

[3] *See Kentucky Resources Council, Inc.'s Notice of Appeal of* Memorandum and Order (Ruling on Hearing Requests) (Aug. 3, 2026) (ML26215A500); *Kentucky Resources Council, Inc.'s Brief in Support of Appeal of* Memorandum and Order (Ruling on Hearing Requests) (Aug. 3, 2026) (ML26215A501).

[4] CLI-26-14, 104 NRC __ (Oct. 22, 2026) (slip op.).

[5] "Environmental Impact Statement for the Global Laser Enrichment, LLC License Application for the Paducah Laser Enrichment Facility" (Final Report) (Oct. 2026) (ML26286A042) (FEIS).

[6] *Id.* at 4-1.

[7] *Id.* at 4-17. The Staff anticipates issuing the results of its safety review in November 2026. *See NRC Staff's Response to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's Order Concerning Scheduling* (July 15, 2026), at 1 (ML26196A099). Before issuing the requested license to GLE, the Staff must determine that the application satisfies the requirements set forth in the AEA and NRC's regulations concerning the public health and safety and common defense and security. *See* CLI-26-3, 103 NRC __, __ (Mar. 4, 2026) (slip op. at 3, 20).

agencies; information in comments provided during the public scoping period and the draft EIS; and the Staff's independent environmental review as documented in the final EIS.[8]

In sum, we find that consistent with sections 193(a)(2) and (b) of the AEA, the Staff has prepared an EIS for the GLE application and an adjudicatory hearing on the record has been held with regard to the application.[9] No further contentions have been filed in the contested proceeding addressing the Staff's findings in the final EIS.[10] Therefore, we *close* the record of this proceeding.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

For the Commission

JODY MARTIN
Digitally signed by JODY MARTIN
Date: 2026.11.23 14:39:47 -05'00'

Jody C. Martin
Secretary of the Commission

Dated at Rockville, Maryland,
this 23rd day of November 2026.

[8] FEIS at S-3, 4-17.

[9] AEA § 193(a)(2), (b), 42 U.S.C. § 2243(a)(2), (b).

[10] In accordance with the Board's direction, any motion to submit a new contention was due within twenty days of the day upon which the information that formed the basis of the motion became available. Licensing Board Order (May 12, 2026), at 4-5 n.13 (unpublished) (ML26132A299).

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(Paducah Laser Enrichment Facility)	)	
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing **COMMISSION MEMORANDUM AND ORDER (CLI-26-16)** (have been served upon the following by Electronic Information Exchange.

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CLARA SOLA

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Office of the Secretary of the Commission

Dated at Rockville, Maryland,
this 23rd day of November 2026.