

March 8, 2012

Mr. Peter Sandbeck
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
North Carolina State Historic
Preservation Office
4617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4617

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF ISSUANCE OF FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED GENERAL ELECTRIC-HITACHI GLOBAL
LASER ENRICHMENT, LLC URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY NEAR
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Dear Mr. Sandbeck:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has prepared the "Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed GE-Hitachi Global Laser Enrichment LLC Facility in Wilmington, North Carolina" (NUREG-1938). This Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) includes an analysis of relevant environmental issues, including an update on the information presented in the Draft EIS on impacts to historic and cultural resources, and documents the NRC staff's determination regarding the environmental impacts from the preconstruction (e.g., site preparation), construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed uranium enrichment facility. The Draft EIS was transmitted to your office for review and comment by letter dated June 17, 2010.

In the context of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, under which the Final EIS has been prepared, the NRC staff's determination is that the impact to historical and archaeological resources from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed uranium enrichment facility at the proposed site would be small to moderate. Archaeological site 31NH801 was identified during the NRC staff's review and was determined to be eligible for listing on the *National Register of Historic Places*. This site is located adjacent to one of the access roads that was identified in the original construction designs. The applicant has reconfigured the access roads plans for the plant and will no longer develop the road adjacent to site, therefore, no impacts are expected from preconstruction or construction activities. However, due to the close proximity of numerous significant resources, there is the possibility for unanticipated discovery. On March 28, 2011, the NRC staff informed your office that a license condition, if a license were to be issued, requiring General Electric-Hitachi Global Laser Enrichment, LLC (GLE or the applicant) to consider the potential effects on historic and cultural resources from any ground-disturbing activities in unsurveyed areas of the proposed site.

On April 5, 2011, your office stated that with inclusion of the license condition, a determination of no adverse effect is appropriate. In addition, GLE has developed internal procedural guidance for unexpected archaeological discoveries and/or human remains. In the event that historic and cultural resources are encountered in the area of potential effect, GLE would implement these procedures, which include notification of certain local and State agency representatives, including the State Archaeologist.

P. Sandbeck

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The NRC staff also contacted 16 Native American Tribes, Nations, or organizations identified as having potential interest in the proposed undertaking. Two groups responded. One indicated they had no connection to the area and the other indicated they had no objection to the project, but would like to be contacted if inadvertent discoveries are made.

Enclosed is a copy of the Final EIS for your file.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jennifer A. Davis, Senior Project Manager, by phone at 301-415-3835, or by email at Jennifer.Davis@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA by Christopher McKenney Acting for/

Andrew Persinko, Deputy Director
Environmental Protection
and Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Federal and State Materials
and Environmental Management Programs

Docket No.: 70-7016

Enclosure:
Final EIS

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Andrew Persinko, Deputy Director
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and Performance Assessment Directorate
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Enclosure:
Final EIS

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