

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 12/11/01 EDO CONTROL: G20010544
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FINAL REPLY:

Governor Bob Taft
State of Ohio

TO:

Chariman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI ** CRC NO: 01-0636

Chairman

DESC:

ROUTING:

United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC) Energy
Needs

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Mallett, RII
Dyer, RIII
Lohaus, STP

DATE: 11/30/01

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NMSS

Virgilio

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

Date Printed: Nov 29, 2001 16:27

PAPER NUMBER:	LTR-01-0636	LOGGING DATE:	11/29/2001
ACTION OFFICE:	EDO		
AUTHOR:	Bob Taft		
AFFILIATION:	OH-GOV		
ADDRESSEE:	Richard Meserve		
SUBJECT:	Urges the commission to consider the United States Enrichment Corp's financial ability to invest in a new shipping operation		
ACTION:	Signature of Chairman		
DISTRIBUTION:	Chairman, RF, SECY to Ack		
LETTER DATE:	11/19/2001		
ACKNOWLEDGED	No		
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NOTES:	Commission Correspondence		
FILE LOCATION:	Adams		
DATE DUE:	12/13/2001	DATE SIGNED:	

EDO --G20010544



**BOB TAFT
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO**

November 19, 2001

Mr. Richard A. Meserve, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

VIA FACSIMILE: 301-415-1757

Dear Chairman Meserve:

I am becoming increasingly alarmed at the United States Enrichment Corporation's (USEC) ongoing inability to meet the nation's energy needs. As you know, USEC ceased operation of its facility in Piketon, Ohio earlier this year and its sole plant in Paducah, Kentucky is not meeting the nation's customer specifications for enriched uranium.

USEC is now considering the relocation of its shipping operations from Piketon to Paducah that will eliminate another 400 jobs in Ohio. I stress to the commission that it is important to evaluate the short and long term negative impact of this proposed transfer on the public's security, safety, and health interests.


The Bush administration is continuing to develop a long-term strategy that contemplates the need to operate another uranium enrichment facility using newer and more efficient technologies. It is widely recognized in the nuclear industry that given Piketon's existing centrifuge facilities, infrastructure, and workforce expertise, Ohio is in a very strong position to have such a technology deployed here. However, if USEC continues to neglect this facility, the federal government's ability to maintain a second viable facility will be irreparably damaged.

I urge the commission to consider USEC's financial ability to invest in a new shipping operation and the justification in doing so. The current operation in Piketon meets or exceeds all commission requirements and the implementation of a new or different base in Paducah may put at further risk the company's overall ability to achieve financial sovereignty.

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Chairman Meserve
November 19, 2001
Page 2.

Thank you for your interest in this matter and allowing opportunity to provide input in the anticipated review of USEC's request which will be informally placed before the commission as early as this week.

Sincerely,

Bob Taft
Governor

c: Dick Cheney, Vice-President
Spencer Abraham, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
Mike DeWine, U.S. Senator
George V. Voinovich, U.S. Senator
Ted Strickland, U.S. Representative