

Mr Michael Lesar
Division of Administrations Services
Office of Administration
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington DC 20555

November 9, 2002

10/2/02
67 FR 61932
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Mr Lesar,

I believe that this round of comments on the pending Louisiana Energy Services application for a license to process UF6 in Trousdale County, TN, is based on a false and irrelevant premise, to wit: that a corporation may entreat the NRC and that the NRC may grant them the legal right to remove certain items from discussion in later hearings, including the licensing procedures.

This rush to contravene our law and democratic processes is particularly noxious for most of us who live in the proposed site area, necessitating immediate time, expense and effort on our part to understand what we are getting into.

The most egregious detail of this comment period is LES' attempt to assume the need for this UF6 enrichment plant. In fact, no further uranium enrichment will be needed in the US for several decades, if not forever.

No new nuclear power plant has been ordered in the U.S. in the past 24 years. Nuclear power plants will or should be decommissioned over the next 24 years, by which time they will be replaced by natural gas, windpower and advanced technologies. There will be no U.S. market for nuclear fuel by the year 2025 or 2030.

There are currently approximately 500 tons of highly enriched uranium (from dismantled US and Russian nuclear weapons and stockpiles) available for downblending to run our aging nuclear power system. There is certainly an additional 500 tons in the DOE/U.S. stockpile. Another similar amount could be purchased from Russia. Any HEU available should be purchased and downblended, as soon as possible, even at premium prices. The importance of this to national and global security dwarfs market price considerations, and no effort should be spared in acquiring every pound of fissile material available.

There is no need for this plant, other than the "need" of LES and Urenco partners to make a profit.

sincerely yours,

John Hepler 292 Haydenburg Rd, Whitleyville, TN 38588

John Hepler

Penelope = ADM-013

E-RIDS = ADM-03
Gad = N. Johnson (TEJ)