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May 13, 2002

NOTE TO COMMISSIONER ASSISTANTS

OCM/RM

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X John Thoma
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___ Lorna Kipfer
___ Tojuana Fortune

FROM: John W. Craig /RA/
Assistant for Operations, OEDO

SUBJECT: LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES WHITE PAPER ISSUES

Louisiana Energy Services recently submitted a letter and met with the staff on some white paper issues related to a gas centrifuge enrichment facility. Please see the attached summary.

Attachment: As stated

cc: W. Travers, EDO (w/o attachment)
C. Paperiello, DEDMRS (w/attachment)
W. Kane, DEDR (w/o attachment)
P. Norry, DEDM (w/attachment)
J. Craig, AO (w/attachment)
B. Smith, OEDO (w/attachment)
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SECY (w/attachment)
OGC (w/attachment)
OCA (w/attachment)
OPA (w/attachment)
OIP (w/o attachment)
CIO (w/o attachment)
CFO (w/o attachment)
EDO R/F (w/attachment)

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Review of Louisiana Energy Services (LES) Proposal for Reviewing Licensing Issues

On April 30, 2002, NRC staff met with staff from Louisiana Energy Services (LES) to discuss six white paper environmental and licensing issues applicable to a gas centrifuge enrichment facility (see attachment). The six issues addressed: facility need and the no-action alternative; environmental justice; financial qualifications; antitrust review; foreign ownership; and tails disposition. These issues were litigated in the previous LES licensing effort. LES proposed that the Commission establish clear direction on these issues by setting out specific requirements in the Commission Order initiating the licensing proceeding. LES believes that this will promote a more efficient licensing review process. LES plans to select a site in mid-June 2002 and submit a license application in December 2002. The staff is currently reviewing these issues.