

October 14, 2003

Mr. Phillip Barr
2836 Northacres
Hobbs, NM 88240

SUBJECT: LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES PROJECT WATER REQUIREMENTS

Dear Mr. Barr:

I'm responding to your email of September 3, 2003, to the U.S. Department of Energy in which you expressed concern about the quantity of water projected to be needed for the proposed Louisiana Energy Services (LES) gas centrifuge uranium enrichment plant in Eunice, New Mexico. It is our understanding the LES project will require about 75 acre-feet of water for plant operations. Local officials have told us that this amount is about one-third of the annual water usage at the Eunice golf course and is equivalent to that needed by a 25-acre farm. Local officials have told us that this requirement is not a significant impact on current community water needs. Nevertheless, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will consider water usage requirements in the Environmental Impact Statement it is required to prepare for the project.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-7299.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Timothy C. Johnson
Special Projects Section
Special Projects and Inspection
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket: 70-3103

cc: William Szymanski/DOE
Rod Krich/Exelon
James Curtiss/W&S
Mario Robles/USEC
James Ferland/LES
Dennis Holmberg/Lea County
James Brown/Eunice
Michael Marriotte/NIRS
Terry Sweeton/CSC

Claydean Claiborne/Jal
Bobby Walloch/Hobbs
Troy Harris/Lovington
Betty Richman/Tatum
Glen Hackler/Andrews
William Floyd/New Mexico
Richard Ratliff/Texas
Jerry Clift/Hartsville

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