

February 27, 2004

Ms. Rufina Laws
106 Elm Street
Mescalero, NM 88340

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES PROJECT

Dear Ms. Laws:

As you are aware, Louisiana Energy Services (LES) proposes to construct and operate a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility in Eunice, New Mexico. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received a license application and environmental report for the proposed gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility site from LES in December 2003. The application is for a license to build and operate a gas centrifuge enrichment facility that would enrich uranium for use in manufacturing, commercial nuclear fuel for use in power reactors. LES proposes to use gas centrifuge technology to enrich the isotope Uranium-235 in uranium hexafluoride (UF₆), up to 5 percent (assay level for practical use in nuclear reactors). The environmental report examined the environmental consequences of several alternatives related to the construction and operation of this facility.

At your request, information on the NRC and the LES project is enclosed (Enclosures). In addition, a copy of the LES license application and environmental report will be available at the Mescalero Community Library in Mescalero, New Mexico. Copies of these documents may also be obtained from NRC's Public Document Room located at U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland (Enclosures). As I mentioned during our telephone conversation, information and documents associated with the LES gas enrichment centrifuge facility project may also be obtained from NRC's LES Facility webpage: <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/lesfacility.html> and through NRC's electronic reading room, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html>.

I look forward to meeting you at the LES Scoping meeting that we will be hosting on Thursday, March 4, 2004, at the Eunice Community Center, 1115 Avenue I, in Eunice, New Mexico, from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

R. Laws

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If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at (301) 415-6262.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Melanie Wong, Environmental Project Manager
Environmental and Low-Level Waste Section
Environmental and Performance
Assessment Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosures:

NUREG/BR-0280, Rev 1: Regulating Nuclear Fuel
NUREG/BR-0010, Rev 4: Citizen's Guide to the U.S.N.R.C. Information
NUREG/BR-0099, Rev 10: The U.S.N.R.C. Fact Sheet
Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS for the Proposed LES Gas Centrifuge Uranium
Enrichment Facility
Proposed Louisiana Energy Services Gas Centrifuge Uranium Enrichment Facility
Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Scoping Fact Sheet
Uranium Enrichment Fact Sheet
Public Document Room Fact Sheet
Notice to Public Document Room Users

cc: Ms. Holly B. E. Houghten (without Enclosures)
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Mescalero Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero, New Mexico 88340

Service List (without Enclosures)
Docket No.: 70-3103

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Sincerely,

/RA/

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S:\DWM\EPAB\MCM\LES info to RLaws.WPD

Log No.: 04-031

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*See previous concurrence

OFC	DWM/EPAB	SC:DWM/EPAB		
NAME	MWong:tjh*	SCFlanders*		
DATE	2/25/04	2/27/04		

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