

March 2, 2004

The Honorable James Brown
City of Eunice
P.O. Box 147
1106 Avenue J
Eunice, NM 88231

SUBJECT: LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES LICENSING SCHEDULE

Dear Mayor Brown:

This is in response to your letter of February 12, 2004, to Chairman Nils Diaz in which you expressed concerns about the schedule for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission review of the license application for the proposed Louisiana Energy Services gas centrifuge uranium enrichment plant in Eunice, New Mexico. In the Order issued by the Commission on January 30, 2004, the Commission imposed a 30-month schedule for the proceeding (see Enclosure). This schedule is based on completing the technical review and preparing an environmental impact statement within 18 months. The remainder of the time is allocated for a hearing and any final Commission determinations. We, therefore, consider that the technical review and environmental impact statement preparation schedule is consistent with the information provided to you in previous discussions with my staff. However, in accordance with the Order, we are also trying to identify efficiencies that would further reduce the time needed to complete the licensing review.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-7800.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Martin J. Virgilio, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: Commission Order
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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LTR.ML040570703

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Document Name: G:\SPB\TCJ\lesbrown1.wpd

OFC	SPIB		SPIB		PMDA		SPIB		SPIB	
NAME	TJohnson/dw		LGross		Tech. Editor		BSmith		JGitter	
DATE	2/ 25 /04		2 / 26 /04		2 / 26 /04		2 / 26 /04		2 / 26 /04	

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