

November 30, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Joseph G. Giitter, Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards

THRU: Brian W. Smith, Chief /RA/
Gas Centrifuge Facility Licensing Section
Special Projects Branch, FCSS

FROM: Timothy C. Johnson, Project Manager /RA/
Gas Centrifuge Facility Licensing Section
Special Projects Branch, FCSS

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 2, 2004, TELEPHONE SUMMARY: LOUISIANA
ENERGY SERVICES DISCUSSIONS ON SEISMIC HAZARDS

On November 2, 2004, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a telephone conference call with staff from Louisiana Energy Services (LES) to discuss seismic hazards related to the LES uranium enrichment plant proposed to be built in Eunice, New Mexico. I am attaching the telephone summary for your use. The summary contains no proprietary or classified information.

Docket: 70-3103

Attachment: Louisiana Energy Services
Telephone Summary

cc:	William Szymanski/DOE	Claydean Claiborne/Jal	Rod Krich/LES
	Monty Newman/Hobbs	James Curtiss/W&S	Troy Harris/Lovington
	Peter Miner/USEC	Betty Richman/Tatum	James Ferland/LES
	Glen Hackler/Andrews	Dennis Holmberg/Lea Cty	John Parker/NMED
	James Brown/Eunice	Richard Ratliff/Texas	M. Marriotte/NIRS
	Jerry Clift/Hartsville	CO'Claire/Ohio	Lee Cheney/CNIC
	Derrith Watchman-Moore/NMED	Joseph Malherek/PC	Ron Curry/NMED
	Tannis Fox/NMED	Patricia Madrid/NMAG	Glenn Smith/NMAG
	Lindsay Lovejoy/NIRS		

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OFC	GCFLS		GCFLS		GCFLS
NAME	TJohnson/os		LMarshall		BSmith
DATE	11/ 29/04		11/29/04		11/30/04

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Telephone Conference Call Summary

Seismic Hazards

Date and Time: 2:00 PM; November 2, 2004

Call Participants:	W. Troskoski/NRC	B. Smith/NRC
	T.C. Johnson/NRC	S. Gonzalez/CNWRA
	S. Hsiung/CNWRA	A. Chowdhury/CNWRA
	R. Krich/LES	D. Green/Excel
	G. Harper/Areva	G. Klemicewicz/Areva

On November 2, 2004, a conference call between U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) and Louisiana Energy Services (LES) staffs was held to discuss seismic hazards related to LES' application for a uranium enrichment facility proposed to be located in Eunice, New Mexico.

Discussion:

An open item related to seismic hazards concerns the incorporation of a background model in the seismic hazard calculations. In LES' seismic hazard calculations, the seismic source zones did not consider earthquake magnitudes below 5.0. Specifically, CNWRA staff asked whether magnitudes less than 5.0 will have an impact on the estimated ground motion at the site. LES staff responded that they had followed the strict lower bound magnitude recommendations of the Electric Power Research Institute and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and did not include magnitudes below 5.0. LES stated that these magnitudes are not expected to affect the LES site because buildings are designed for these earthquakes. In addition, these magnitudes would not be expected to produce higher ground motions than those already calculated for the site. CNWRA staff found LES response acceptable.

In addition, CNWRA staff stated a concern regarding significantly higher hazard predicted for the site by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Seismic Hazard Mapping Project based on a comparison of peak ground acceleration (PGA) values. This was followed by a discussion regarding the possible reasons for the difference between peak acceleration values. An agreement was then reached that, before LES (or CNWRA) performs additional work to investigate the reasons for this difference, CNWRA staff should compare the LES design response spectra with the USGS hazard results for a range of frequency values. Additional discussion between the staffs would take place following this review.