



## GE Energy Nuclear

**Robert E. Brown**  
General Manager  
Regulatory Affairs

P.O. Box 780 M/C A45  
Wilmington, NC 28402-0780  
USA

T 910 675 5242  
F 910 362 5242  
Bob.Brown@ge.com

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ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Jack Strosnider, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards  
Roy Zimmerman, Director  
Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Letter of Intent, Enrichment Facility Project Licensing

General Electric Company (GE) would like to advise you that we are undertaking efforts toward the licensing of an enrichment facility in the U.S. On May 22, 2006, GE entered into an agreement with Silex, an Australian company, to purchase and bring a new enrichment technology to the U. S. and to operate the facility under a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) materials license under 10 CFR Part 70. On October 2, 2006, GE received authorization from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under 10 CFR Part 810 to engage in the activities involved in this effort.

GE will implement the first phase of this project at its nuclear headquarters in Wilmington, North Carolina, under the Global Nuclear Fuel-Americas (GNF-A) NRC facility license (SNM-1097). On June 14, 2006, GE briefed the NRC Staff on this first phase, which will involve laboratory quantities of enriched material to verify final production design parameters. GE will implement enhanced security measures for the associated operation, including a GNF-A FOCI, personnel clearances, significantly revised security plan, facility security clearance and an amendment to the facility SNM license.

The security elements appear to be the most complex and time-consuming issues involved in the first phase of the project. GE is unable to proceed with most aspects of the project until all of the requisite security clearances have been processed for the GE employees involved in the process. While contingent upon the security clearance of key employees, GE estimates that it will submit a license amendment application in January 2007, for NRC approval by November 2007, to begin operations as described above.

The next phase of the project will involve a request for a materials license for the full-scale enrichment plant. We anticipate submitting a license application by December 2007, for NRC approval by December 2009. We request NRC support for licensing the facility in an efficient and timely manner.

GE provides this information in order that the NRC Staff may assure that adequate resources will be available to support licensing the facility. GE intends to work with the NRC Staff and continue ongoing communications as the work progresses and will submit additional information as soon as practical.

Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. E. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert E. Brown  
General Manager  
Regulatory Affairs