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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

RECEIVED  
USNRC

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
DEPT. OF THE ATTENTION OF  
BRANCH  
(AE-17J)

OCT 22 1996

John C. Hoyle, Secretary  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Mr. Hoyle:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the petition presented to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission from Mark Donham and Kristi Hanson. While the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in not withing Region 5, the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant is, and similar types of conditions can be found at both locations.

The USEPA, after a careful review of the submitted information, believes that the public should be afforded adequate time to make their concerns known and concurs with the assertion that the concerns must be adequately addressed prior to approvals of Certificates of Compliance being issued. Procedures that would curtail public input or shorten comment periods should not be implemented for issues of this complexity and visibility to the public.

For further information or clarifications of our position, please feel free to contact me or Michael Murphy, of my staff at (312) 886-6175 or (312) 353-6686, respectively.

Sincerely yours,

Jack Barnette, Chief  
Radiation and Indoor Air Section

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