

August 11, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: James W. Clifford, Acting Chief  
Special Projects Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards

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

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

SUBJECT: AUGUST 2, 2005, LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES PUBLIC  
MEETING SUMMARY

On August 2, 2005, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff conducted a public meeting at the Eunice Community Center in Eunice, New Mexico, to discuss the NRC's Safety Evaluation Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Louisiana Energy Services (LES) uranium enrichment plant proposed to be located in Lea County, New Mexico. I am attaching the meeting summary for your use. This summary contains no proprietary or classified information.

Docket: 70-3103

Attachment: Louisiana Energy Services Meeting Summary

cc:

William Szymanski/DOE  
Monty Newman/Hobbs  
Peter Miner/USEC  
Glen Hackler/Andrews  
Lue Ethridge/Lea County  
Michael Marriotte/NIRS  
Derrith Watchman-Moore/NM  
Tannis Fox/NMED  
Lindsay Lovejoy/NIRS

Claydean Claiborne/Jal  
James Curtiss/W&S  
Betty Rickman/Tatum  
Parker/New Mexico  
Richard Ratliff/Texas  
Jerry Clift/Hartsville  
Joseph Malherek/PC  
Patricia Madrid/NMAG  
Roger Mulder/Texas

Rod Krich/LES  
Troy Harris/Lovington  
James Ferland/LES  
James Brown/Eunice  
Lee Cheney/CNIC  
CO'Claire/Ohio  
Ron Curry/NMED  
Glen Smith/NMAG

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Special Projects Branch, FCSS

FROM: Timothy C. Johnson /RA/  
Senior Mechanical Systems Engineer  
Gas Centrifuge Facility Licensing Section  
Special Projects Branch, FCSS

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Peter Miner/USEC	Betty Rickman/Tatum	James Ferland/LES
Glen Hackler/Andrews	Parker/New Mexico	James Brown/Eunice
Lue Ethridge/Lea County	Richard Ratliff/Texas	Lee Cheney/CNIC
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Lindsay Lovejoy/NIRS	Roger Mulder/Texas	

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RHannah/RegII	DAyres/Reg II	DSeymour/RegII	JHenson/RegII
RTrojanowski/RegII	KClark/RegII	VMitlyng/RegIII	LES Website - Yes
SEchols	FCameron/OGC	FBurrows/TSG	
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OFC	GCFLS	GCFLS		DWMEP	GCFLS
NAME	TCJohnson: os	LMarshall		JDavis	BSmith
DATE	8/09/05	08/10/05		08/11/05	08/11/05

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

Summary of  
Public Meeting on Louisiana Energy Services  
Safety Evaluation Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement

Dates: August 2, 2005

Place: Eunice Community Center  
Eunice, New Mexico

Attendees: James Clifford/NRC                      Brian Smith/NRC  
Jennifer Davis/NRC                                  Lisa Clark/NRC  
Kenneth Clark/NRC                                 Kathleen Kannler/NRC  
Stan Echols/NRC                                     Chris Graves/NRC  
Chip Cameron/NRC                                 William Troskoski/NRC  
T.C. Johnson/NRC  
Approximately 50 members of the public

Purpose:

The purpose of this public meeting was to discuss the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Safety Evaluation Report (SER) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Louisiana Energy Services (LES) uranium enrichment facility proposed to be located in Lea County, New Mexico.

Discussion:

Chip Cameron opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and stating that the purpose of the meeting was for NRC staff to provide short discussions on the SER and FEIS followed by questions from the public. Mr. Cameron also thanked Mayor James Brown of Eunice for his support of the meeting and for the use of the Eunice Community Center.

T.C. Johnson provided a summary of the NRC licensing process for a uranium enrichment facility and background on the project (see Attachments 1, 2, and 3). He and William Troskoski then provided a brief summary of the SER explaining the areas evaluated in the SER and a short summary of the NRC findings in each area. Mr. Troskoski emphasized the review of the accident analyses for the facility, explaining that the proposed gas centrifuge plant is a simple facility with relatively low hazards because of the subatmospheric design of the plant and the minimization of liquid uranium hexafluoride. Mr. Troskoski indicated that the most hazardous operation was cylinder sampling, which is done by heating uranium hexafluoride to a liquid. This operation, however, is protected by using a pressure vessel autoclave to prevent releases to the atmosphere in the event that a cylinder might leak or rupture during the sampling.

Jennifer Davis provided a summary of the FEIS (see Attachments 4, 5, 6, and 7). Ms. Davis explained the process for preparing a FEIS and indicated that two public meetings in Eunice have taken place to obtain public input on scoping the environmental analysis and to obtain public comments of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Ms. Davis also summarized the environmental impacts as provided in Attachment 6.

Mr. Johnson then discussed the future project schedule indicating that evidentiary hearings on the remaining contentions in the hearing are scheduled to take place in October and November 2005 with an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board decision scheduled in February 2006. Assuming the Commission makes its decision in favor of LES, a license could be issued in June 2006 with LES starting construction in the Summer of 2006.

Mr. Johnson also discussed the status of the settlement agreement between the State of New Mexico and LES. He said that the initial agreement was written for NRC to enforce its provisions. However, NRC determined that some aspects of the agreement would be difficult to enforce. Subsequently, LES and the State revised the agreement such that it could be acceptable to the NRC.

Mr. Cameron then opened the meeting for questions from the audience. Questions included the following areas:

- Periodic cleanout of the holding ponds – exposures to the nearest resident would be about one thousandth of a mrem/year, substantially less than the NRC limit of 100 mrem/year. Because the doses are very small, no periodic cleanout of the holding basins is necessary.
- Fog created by the holding basins – under some weather conditions, fog could be created around the holding ponds. In the FEIS, this was evaluated as an insignificant impact.
- Use of additional high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters – because the airborne releases from the facility are so small and the resultant public exposures are so low, no additional HEPA filtration beyond that proposed by LES is necessary.
- Use of indoor storage of depleted uranium cylinders – because of the rigorous cylinder storage, inspection, and maintenance program proposed by LES, outdoor storage of cylinders is acceptable.
- Use of local contractors – James Ferland from LES indicated that LES has started to identify local contractors to perform construction work at the facility.

About a dozen individuals expressed support for the facility.

Action Items:

None

Attachments:

1. SER presentation handouts
2. Spanish version of SER presentation handouts
3. Spanish version of SER Executive Summary
4. FEIS presentation handouts
5. Spanish version of FEIS presentation handouts

6. FEIS meeting fact sheet
7. FEIS impact summary