

July 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael Tschiltz, Deputy Director  
Fuel Facility Licensing Directorate  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

THRU: Brian W. Smith, Chief **/RA/**  
Enrichment and Conversion Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

FROM: Timothy C. Johnson, Senior Project Manager **/RA/**  
Enrichment and Conversion Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: JUNE 16, 2008 MEETING SUMMARY: GENERAL ELECTRIC-  
HITACHI MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

On June 16, 2008, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with staff from General Electric-Hitachi (GEH) to discuss the environmental report GEH is preparing for their laser-based uranium enrichment plant project. I am enclosing the meeting summary for your use. This summary contains no proprietary or classified information.

Docket No.: 70-7016

Enclosure: General Electric-Hitachi Meeting Summary  
Global Laser Enrichment Environmental Report

cc: William Szymanski/DOE	Bruce Shell/New Hanover County
Patricia Campbell/GEH	Marty Lawing/Brunswick County
Julie Olivier/GEH	George Brown/Pender County
Albert Kennedy/GEH	Bill Saffo/Wilmington
James Ross/GEH	Malissa Talbert/Wilmington
Tom Clements/FOTE	Wanda Lagoe/NCOSH

CONTACT: Timothy Johnson, NMSS/FCSS  
301-492-3121

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael Tschiltz, Deputy Director  
 Fuel Facility Licensing Directorate  
 Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
 and Safeguards  
 Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
 and Safeguards

THRU: Brian W. Smith, Chief **/RA/**  
 Enrichment and Conversion Branch  
 Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
 and Safeguards  
 Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
 and Safeguards

FROM: Timothy C. Johnson, Senior Project Manager **/RA/**  
 Enrichment and Conversion Branch  
 Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
 and Safeguards  
 Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
 and Safeguards

SUBJECT: JUNE 16, 2008 MEETING SUMMARY: GENERAL ELECTRIC-  
 HITACHI MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

On June 16, 2008, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with staff from General Electric-Hitachi (GEH) to discuss the environmental report GEH is preparing for their laser-based uranium enrichment plant project. I am enclosing the meeting summary for your use. This summary contains no proprietary or classified information.

Docket No.: 70-7016

Enclosure: General Electric-Hitachi Meeting Summary  
 Global Laser Enrichment Environmental Report

cc: William Szymanski/DOE  
 Patricia Campbell/GEH  
 Julie Olivier/GEH  
 Albert Kennedy/GEH  
 James Ross/GEH  
 Tom Clements/FOTE

Bruce Shell/New Hanover County  
 Marty Lawing/Brunswick County  
 George Brown/Pender County  
 Bill Saffo/Wilmington  
 Malissa Talbert/Wilmington  
 Wanda Lagoe/NCOSH

CONTACT: Timothy Johnson, NMSS/FCSS  
 301-492-3121

**DISTRIBUTION:**

FCSS r/f	SPB r/f	RidsNmssOd	RidsEdoMailCenter
MWeber/NMSS	RPierson/FCSS	CHaney/NMSS	LClark/OGC
KEverly/NSIR	APowell/OCA	DMcIntyre/OPA	RVirgilio/FSME
MLesser/Reg II	DSeymour/RegII	JHenson/RegII	RHannah/RegII
KClark/RegII	CTaylor/RegII	RTrojanowski/RegII	CRidge/FSME
GSuber/FSME	SFlanders/FSME	PBubar/FSME	BReilly/ECB
GEH Website-NO			

**ML081840194**

OFC	ECB	ECB	FSME	ECB
NAME	TJohnson	VWilliams	CRidge	BSmith
DATE	7/09/08	7/09/08	7/10/09	7/10/09

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Summary of  
General Electric-Hitachi Project Meeting on Environmental Report

Dates: June 16, 2008

Place: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)  
Rockville, Maryland

Attendees: See Attachment 1

Purpose:

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the environmental report (ER) General Electric-Hitachi (GEH) staff is preparing for its laser-based uranium enrichment plant project.

Discussion:

Following introductions, Mr. Al Kennedy provided a brief update on the project status (see Attachment 2). He said that GEH had provided its Emergency Plan for the project to four responders for their review and sent two "white papers" to the NRC for its consideration. He also said that a draft of the ER has been prepared and the official license application submittal date is "later this year."

Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Olivier then discussed the ER that is near completion. He indicated that the ER follows the format in NUREG-1748, "Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated with NMSS Programs."

Under the purpose and need, GEH indicated that the ER provides a discussion of domestic and global uranium enrichment capacities and demand forecasts. The demand forecasts are based on nuclear generation requirements.

Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Olivier provided lists of the licenses and permits needed for the facility. These include licenses and permits from NRC, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the State of North Carolina, and New Hanover County.

In the chapter on alternatives, GEH addressed their site selection process, technology alternatives, facility design alternatives, and the specific location on the Wilmington, North Carolina, site. Discussions of cumulative effects of a No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative are addressed. NRC staff requested that the cumulative impacts need to include the proposed Titan cement plant proposed to be located near the GEH site.

In GEH's evaluation of impacts to the environment, most of the impacts were evaluated as small. Local transportation near the site, noise during construction, and disturbance of ecological species during construction were considered to be moderate. Impacts to ground water, surface water, the Cape Fear River, and water quality were considered to be small. Impacts to cultural and historic resources, environmental justice, and public and worker health were considered to be small. Waste management impacts, including the disposition of depleted uranium tails, is considered to be small.

For the evaluation of public health, impacts were considered for the residents currently living closest to the plant. NRC staff asked if the currently undeveloped area directly across the northern boundary of the site from the proposed facility could become residential in the near future. GEH staff indicated the area currently is forested and that they would investigate the area's zoning and suitability for future development.

NRC staff requested that any pre-construction impacts need be specifically identified, as described in interim staff guidance for limited work authorization (COL/ESP-ISG-004). GEH had requested NRC consider allowing GEH to perform pre-construction activities without prior authorization in one of its "white papers." GEH indicated that the ER currently does not separate the impacts of pre-construction from construction activities and that the separation may be described in an appendix to the ER.

NRC staff also requested that GEH specifically consider impacts from the closure of the Barnwell, South Carolina, low-level radioactive waste disposal site. Mr. Kennedy indicated that it has a contract with Energy Solutions in Utah for disposal of its wastes, so there would be no impact. Mr. Kennedy also said that GEH would state this in the ER.

GEH will establish an environmental monitoring program that measures direct radiation, airborne releases, liquid effluent releases, ground water, and surface water. Monitoring includes both radiological and non-radiological monitoring.

Mr. Greg Suber indicated that the ER that was submitted to support the renewal of the General Electric Global Nuclear Fuels license will need to be supplemented to include the impacts of using the fuel fabrication facility's waste water treatment system for the uranium enrichment plant. Mr. Suber stated that NRC will provide a letter formally requesting that the fuel facility ER be updated to include any impacts of using existing fuel facility systems for the enrichment plant.

Action Items:

None