



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STEVEN L. BESHEAR  
GOVERNOR

700 CAPITOL AVENUE  
SUITE 100  
FRANKFORT, KY 40601  
(502) 564-2611  
FAX: (502) 564-2517

February 13, 2012

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

I write to express my agreement with points Kentucky's congressional delegation made in a letter to you dated Feb. 9, 2012, regarding tails enrichment at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. My administration shares President Barack Obama's goals of saving and creating jobs; however, the lack of action on the part of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on this issue is putting at risk a major economic engine in western Kentucky, and will force the loss of 1,200 jobs.

This is not the first time I have expressed my concerns regarding this issue. One year ago, I requested that the DOE commence a program to re-enrich the depleted uranium that is stored at the Paducah site, noting the important environmental and economic benefits such a program would have for both Kentucky and the nation. Members of my cabinet and I have also communicated our concerns with members of congress and other officials within DOE.

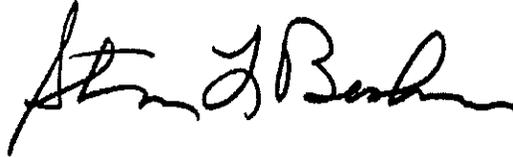
Kentucky officials are not alone in calling for a program to enrich tails. As you know, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), in 2008, found that re-enriching a portion of the tails cylinders would save on conversion costs associated with the eventual cleanup and disposal of the cylinders. The GAO, our congressional members also point out in their letter to you, has reconfirmed the environmental, national security, and economic benefits of re-enriching the tails. The GAO also notes the authority of the DOE for an enrichment program and that the option of storing the tails indefinitely could prevent DOE from realizing potentially large revenues if it were to sell re-enriched tails.

A year of inaction and lack of substantive dialogue with the Commonwealth on this issue is presenting enormous loss of opportunity to move forward with a viable program. For the 1,200 people whose jobs are at risk in my state, this situation is especially untenable.

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I echo Kentucky's congressional delegation in its call for timely, constructive action from DOE, which has clear regulatory authority. If not the re-enrichment plan that has been previously proposed, please outline what steps you are willing to take to save these jobs. I stand ready to assist you in any way.

Sincerely,



Steven L. Beshear

cc: Daniel B Poneman, Deputy Secretary of Energy  
Thomas P. D'Agostino, Under Secretary, National Nuclear Security Administration  
David Hulzenga, Acting Assistant Secretary Environmental Management  
Dr. Peter B. Lyons, Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy  
Senator Mitch McConnell  
Senator Rand Paul  
Congressman Ben Chandler  
Congressman Geoff Davis  
Congressman Brett Guthrie  
Congressman Hal Rogers  
Congressman Ed Whitfield  
Congressman John Yarmuth  
Senator Bob Leeper  
Representative Michael Cherry  
Representative Will Coursey  
Representative Brent Housman  
Representative Fred Nesler  
Representative Steven Rudy  
Mayor Bill Paxton  
Judge-Executive Van Newberry  
Elaine Spalding, President, Paducah Chamber of Commerce  
Duncan Pitchford