



NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 70-3103; CEQ ID EAXX-429-00-000-1775693431; NRC-2026-1156]

Louisiana Energy Services, LLC, dba Urenco USA;

National Enrichment Facility;

Revised Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice; issuance.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing a revised environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for an exemption request submitted by Louisiana Energy Services, LLC (LES) also doing business as (dba) Urenco USA (UUSA), that would allow UUSA, a general licensee and certificate of compliance (CoC) user, to use a vendor's transportation package design (CoC No. 9362) for transport of certain limited shipments of uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) up to 10 weight (wt.) percent enrichment of uranium-235 (U-235), a higher enrichment than authorized in CoC No. 9362, Revision No. 5. This EA includes revisions to account for a change in the proposed exemption that would not result in changes to the potential environmental impacts.

DATES: The EA and FONSI referenced in this document are available on **[INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

ADDRESSES: Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2026-1156 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Website:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC-2026-1156. Address questions about Docket IDs in Regulations.gov to Bridget Curran; telephone: 301-415-1003; email:

Bridget.Curran@nrc.gov. For technical questions, contact the individual(s) listed in the “For Further Information Contact” section of this document.

- **NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System**

(ADAMS): You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select “Begin ADAMS Public Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC’s Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, at 301-415-4737, or by email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov. For the convenience of the reader, instructions about obtaining materials referenced in this document are provided in the “Availability of Documents” section.

- **NRC’s PDR:** The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov or call 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Daneira Meléndez Colón, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-7295; email: Daneira.Melendez-Colon@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Introduction

The NRC is reviewing an exemption request from LES, also dba UUSA, dated October 8, 2025, and supplemented on December 16, 2025, February 4, 2026, and April 22, 2026. Urenco USA is requesting an exemption, pursuant to section 71.12 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), of paragraphs 71.17(c)(2) and 71.17(c)(3), that require UUSA to comply with the terms and conditions of CoC No. 9362 and submit in writing before the first use of the package. If approved, the exemption would allow UUSA to use 30B cylinders within certified DN30 transportation packages

(i.e., CoC No. 9362) for domestic transport of UF₆ enriched to greater than 5 but less than 10 wt. percent U-235. Currently, CoC No. 9362, Revision No. 5, allows for transport of UF₆ with U-235 mass percentage not to exceed 5 wt. percent.

II. Environmental Assessment

This revised EA contains minor revisions to the discussion of the NRC staff's criticality evaluation in the "Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action" section of this document. On April 22, 2026, after issuance of the original EA (91 FR 20180), UUSA notified the NRC of their desire to have maximum allowable 30B cylinder payload (i.e., mass) approved. The revised discussion does not result in changes to the NRC staff's assessment of potential environmental impacts.

Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would authorize UUSA, a general licensee and CoC user, to use 30B cylinders within certified DN30 transportation packages (i.e., transportation package system) for domestic transport of certain limited shipments of UF₆ at an enrichment of greater than 5, but less than 10 wt. percent U-235. Urenco USA is currently a registered user of the DN30 transportation package. At this time the CoC for the DN30 transportation package contents is limited to 5 wt. percent U-235 (CoC No. 9362, Revision No. 5). No physical or design changes to the DN30 transportation package are proposed in this exemption. The proposed exemption would be limited to using approximately 40 to 50 cylinders in 2026-2027 for shipment of UF₆ to a single customer.

The CoC is the NRC approved design for each transportation package system. The proposed action would exempt the applicant from the requirements of 10 CFR 71.17(c)(2) and 71.17(c)(3) only as these requirements pertain to the use of the 30B cylinder within the DN30 transportation package. The exemption would allow UUSA to use the DN30 transportation package with this content, despite not being in compliance with the terms and conditions in CoC No. 9362.

The proposed action is in accordance with UUSA exemption request dated October 8, 2025, as supplemented on December 16, 2025, February 4, 2026, and April 22, 2026.

Need for the Proposed Action

The nuclear industry is currently pursuing fuels with slightly increased enrichments for reactors in order to support industry initiatives, such as accident tolerant fuels and extended fuel cycle fuel. Urenco USA and other nuclear facilities are pursuing advancements in fuel and enrichment in concert with reactor designs that utilize high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU); that is, fuels with enrichments greater than 5 but less than 20 wt. percent U-235, to support these initiatives.

Although UUSA's license (SNM-2010) permits enrichment of UF₆ up to less than 10 wt. percent U-235, the material must still be packaged for transport to the fuel fabricators and reactor operators. Currently, there is only one approved UF₆ transportation package for commercial HALEU quantities - the Orano NCS GmbH Model No. DN30-X (CoC No. 9388). The DN30-X transportation package consists of the DN30 packaging and the 30B-X UF₆ cylinder. The "X" in DN30-X and 30B-X is replaced by either "10" or by "20" to refer to a specific design for a maximum enrichment of 10 or 20 percent by weight U-235, respectively. Urenco USA has supported testing of the prototypes and ordered 30B-10 cylinders, but manufacturing of this approved transportation package has not yet occurred. With ANSI (American National Standards Institute) N14.1 standard updates and facility implementation still pending, UUSA is not certain when the new transportation package approved for HALEU fuel contents will be available. Given that UUSA has contracted HALEU orders that will need shipping, this has created a business risk. To address this risk in the meantime, while awaiting the manufacturing of the newly approved transportation package (i.e., DN30-X) that will allow up to 10 wt. percent U-235, UUSA requested regulatory approval to use 30B cylinders within the DN30 transportation package for domestic UF₆ delivery, limited to use approximately 40 to 50 cylinders in 2026–2027 for shipment to a single customer.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

This revised EA evaluates the potential environmental impacts of granting an exemption from certain terms and conditions in CoC No. 9362. The exemption would allow UUSA to use 30B cylinders within certified DN30 transportation packages for domestic transport of UF₆ enriched to greater than 5, but less than 10 wt. percent U-235. This exemption would be limited to using approximately 40 to 50 cylinders in 2026-2027 to deliver UF₆ to a single customer.

The potential environmental impacts of transporting radioactive material pursuant to 10 CFR part 71 was initially published in 1977 as NUREG-0170, "Final Environmental Statement on the Transportation of Radioactive Material by Air and Other Modes" for the Proposed Rule to amend 10 CFR part 71. The Commission concluded that impacts from the transportation of radioactive material are small. As such, a categorical exclusion for transportation package approvals is given in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(13), "Approval of package designs for packages to be used for the transportation of licensed materials" (See 49 FR 9352, at 9368). The categorical exclusion provided in NRC's environmental regulations, however, is specific to package approvals and does not apply to requests for exemption from those approvals. Therefore, the NRC has prepared an environmental assessment in support of the exemption request and, in doing so, is tiering off this "Final Environmental Statement."

Certificates of compliance approving package designs for packages to be used in the transportation of radioactive materials are issued upon demonstration that the package designs meet applicable performance standards contained in part 71 of the Commission's regulations.

NUREG-0170 determined that the principal unavoidable environmental effect of transport of radioactive material was found to be population exposure resulting from normal transport of radioactive materials. As part of the review of this exemption request, the NRC staff concluded by evaluation of dose rate calculations submitted with the application that any radiation exposure from the transport of UF₆, enriched to greater

than 5, but less than 10 wt. percent U-235, utilizing 30B cylinders within certified DN30 transportation packages to the public or workers will not exceed regulatory limits under normal or hypothetical accident conditions during shipment. Any radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts of transporting UF₆, enriched to greater than 5, but less than 10 wt. percent U-235, utilizing 30B cylinders within certified DN30 transportation packages would be no greater than those already evaluated for the transport of UF₆ and would be bound by the previous environmental analysis (NUREG-0170). Further, in its safety evaluation for this exemption the staff concluded that transportation under the exemption would not compromise the shielding performance needed to ensure that external dose rates remain well within NRC limits.

In addition, the staff reviewed the applicant's criticality analyses of the DN30 transportation package containing 30B cylinders with UF₆ enrichments up to 10 wt. percent U-235. The applicant's analysis of single DN30 transportation packages and arrays of packages containing 30B cylinders with UF₆ enrichments up to 10 wt. percent U-235, along with additional NRC staff analyses, demonstrated that the package will be adequately subcritical when the number of packages per conveyance is limited to that appropriate for the revised calculated criticality safety index (CSI), and for the limited duration and number of shipments that are requested in this exemption. Additionally, the staff agrees that the revised calculated CSI, based on the applicant's normal conditions of transport and hypothetical accident conditions package array analysis, as supplemented by staff confirmatory analysis, is acceptable. As such, the staff finds with reasonable assurance that the package, with the requested contents, will meet the criticality safety requirements of 10 CFR part 71.

Therefore, the staff has determined that there will be no significant environmental impacts as a result of approving the exemption for the use of 30B cylinders within certified DN30 transportation packages for transport of certain limited shipments of UF₆ at an enrichment of greater than 5, but less than 10 wt. percent U-235. The staff confirmed that no physical or design changes to the DN30 transportation package are

proposed in this exemption and that the exemption is limited to the use of approximately 40 to 50 cylinders in 2026–2027 for shipment to a single customer. After evaluating dose rate and criticality calculations submitted in the application, and conducting separate confirmatory analyses, the NRC staff concluded that the package design would continue to meet applicable performance standards in part 71 of the Commission’s regulations. Any radiological or non-radiological environmental impacts of transporting UF₆, enriched to greater than 5, but less than 10 wt. percent U-235, utilizing 30B cylinders within certified DN30 transportation packages would be no greater than those already evaluated and would be bounded by the previous environmental analysis (NUREG-0170).

Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed exemption request (i.e., the “no-action” alternative). The potential environmental impacts of denying the request would be unchanged from the current impacts of using 30B cylinders within certified DN30 transportation packages for transport of UF₆ at an enrichment of up to 5 wt. percent U-235. Under this alternative, UUSA would need to identify another way to transport UF₆ product to the customer, and this alternative shipment arrangement would result in similar environmental impacts.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

In accordance with NRC policy, on March 20, 2026, the NRC staff provided a draft of the EA to the State of New Mexico and the State of Washington for review. The NRC received a comment from the State of New Mexico on April 8, 2026, after the close of the comment period. The comment did not result in a change to the staff’s assessment of potential environmental impacts of the proposed action. The staff responded separately to ensure the stakeholder received clear and complete closure. No comments were received from the State of Washington.

On May 19, 2026, the staff notified the states of New Mexico and Washington that the environmental assessment had been revised to clarify the terms of the exemption.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact

The environmental impacts of the proposed action have been reviewed in accordance with the requirements in 10 CFR part 51, which are the NRC's NEPA implementing regulations. Based upon the foregoing revised environmental assessment, the NRC finds that the proposed action of granting the exemption for the regulation in 10 CFR 71.17(c)(2) and 71.17(c)(3), which require the general licensee and CoC user to comply with the terms and conditions of the CoC and submit in writing before the first use of the package, in this particular case limited to the use of approximately 40 to 50 30B cylinders of UF₆ in calendar years 2026 through 2027 for shipment to a single customer, would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined that a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is appropriate, and an environmental impact statement is not warranted.

IV. Availability of Documents

The documents identified in the following table are available to interested persons through one or more of the following methods, as indicated.

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	ADAMS ACCESSION NO. / WEB LINK / FEDERAL REGISTER CITATION
Louisiana Energy Services, LLC, also dba Urenco USA, exemption request, dated October 8, 2025.	ML25281A317
Supplements to request for exemption, dated December 16, 2025, February 4, 2026, and April 22, 2026.	ML25350C350 ML26035A335 ML26114A114
NUREG-0170, Final Environmental Statement on the Transportation of Radioactive Material by Air and Other Modes, Volumes 1 and 2, December 1977.	ML022590355 (Package) ML022590370
Final Rule – 51.22(c)(13)	49 FR 9352, at 9368
Certificate of Compliance No. 9362, Revision No. 5, dated June 11, 2024.	ML24159A018 (Package)
NRC email to State of New Mexico, "Request for State comments regarding an environmental assessment – Urenco USA," dated March 20, 2026.	ML26098A002

NRC email to State of Washington, "Request for State comments regarding an environmental assessment – Urenco USA," dated March 20, 2026.	ML26098A001
State of New Mexico email to NRC, "Re: Request for State comments regarding an environmental assessment – Urenco USA," dated April 8, 2026.	ML26099A018
NRC Response to comment from State of New Mexico, "Response to comment re: Request for State comments regarding and environmental assessment – Urenco USA," dated April 10, 2026.	ML26100A208
NRC email to State of New Mexico, "Notification of revision to EA re: proposed exemption for Urenco USA," dated May 19, 2026.	ML26139A229
NRC email to State of Washington, "Notification of revision to EA re: proposed exemption for Urenco USA," dated May 19, 2026.	ML26139A230

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq.*

Dated: May 20, 2026.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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Licensing Branch,
Division of Fuel Management,
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards.*

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