

2/4/04
69FR5374

From: Melanie Wong
To: Doris Mendiola
Date: 3/16/04 7:32AM
Subject: Comment 41, 70-3103: LES in NM

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Rules and Directives
Branch
USNRC

2004 MAR 16 PM 1:13

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>>> <FredMOrtiz@cs.com> 03/15/04 11:03PM >>>

Dear Melanie,

My name is Delphina Ortiz and I want to thank you for talking with me after the meeting on March 4, 2004. I submitted some concerns but after sitting in on the meeting I have a few other issues that I think need to be addressed. One being the fact that our highways are in poor shape and there have been a lot of accidents on 176 as well as highway 18. This enriched uranium that they are transporting could create a real hazard in the event of an accident.

The other major concern is not just for the state of NM but all the other waste sites that are not being handled and the toxins are contaminating soil, water and air and there are no future plans for cleanup of the areas. I feel that this money could be better spent getting something in the works and cleaning up these sites and a way of making this waste safe for disposal so that our country is not a toxic waste dump for shore to shore. This is a real problem and needs to be addressed.

Also concerning the jobs for this area our local newspaper has numerous ads for work daily. The people in the area feel that they are better than a minimum wage job but do not have a skill level for the better pay and therefore would rather go on welfare or something else than work a job. Also, I feel that anyone working with this would have to be trained and skilled to handle any type problem and most of them would be moved in from other areas where they have knowledge of such things. Thus that would not benefit our area for the jobs that are said to be created for the long term. Also I do not know of anyone other than Military personnel that can retire after 30 years with any kind of income. That to me is not long term employment.

The risk that are involved with the plant also has me concerned because of the emissions from this plant and the way the wind blows around here.

I feel we have worked all of our lives to get the things we have only to sell out and start over because of the contamination of soil and water in the event of an accident. I do not feel that this is fair as my husband and I are looking to retire soon and to start over would mean buying a home elsewhere and they do not come cheap. This has been our home all of our lives and I do not want to live near such a plant because of possible dangers. I feel there is more than meets the eye when it comes down to it all. Especially since two states did not allow them to set up residency, it must have not been a benefit to them either. Therefore my stand is do not allow this to come to our small town. If this plant is so good why did they only take the people to Aledo and not to Kentucky or Ohio where people are suffering the ill effects as well as those who now feel that this was a mistake to allow this to happen in there state.

Our own Governor Bill Richardson who was then energy secretary (1999) issued an apology in Padukah after the government recersed decades of denial and conceded that many workers did get sick because fo exposure to cancer-causing radiation and silica or beryllium, which can cause lung diseases. This was on the NYTimes.com ARticle: Uranium Plant Enriches Kentucky City, but at the cost of Health Oct. 26, 2002. An entitlement law later provided lifetime medical care and a tax-free lump sum of \$150,000 to those made sick by their work. Why have to put something in the causes that kind of expense not to mention the illness they experienced and the loss of loved ones because of it. To me that is totally insane and inhuman.

E-RIDS = ADM-03

Call = T. Johnson (TCS)
M. Wong (MCA)

Template = ADM-013

I hope that what I have to say is of some importance as this is truly how I feel.

Thank you for allowing me to voice this as I think that our Country is a wonderful place and NM is the land of enchantment and I would like for it to stay that way. I

want my children and grandchildren to grow up healthy and have a chance for a good life.

Thank You,

Sincerely

Delphina Ortiz

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