Chairman Nils Diaz U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Office of Public Affairs Washington, D.C. 20555 2/4/04 69 FR 5374 (153)

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Rules and Directives

Branch

Dear Chairman Diaz,

In regards to the license application by Louisiana Energy Services (LES) to build and operate a uranium enrichment plant in Lea County, NM, we offer our utmost support. We have no doubt that this facility will be beneficial to the residents of Lea County and be of interest to our nation's energy needs.

National Enrichment Facility (NEF) has shown that it will operate in a safe and efficient manner as many of the people in this area care deeply about the future of their region and neighborhoods.

The NEF will provide benefits such as:

- Numerous job opportunities
- Employees and their families relocating to Lea County
- Community support from LES
- Providing a domestic source for our nation's nuclear power needs

This facility will provide jobs, opportunity for new housing construction, provisions of services and education. LES has proven to be a corporation that will support the community and provide a safe and clean environment.

Building this facility is a tremendous opportunity that will bring many positive impacts to Lea County. I think that you will agree it will be a great benefit to the people of Lea County as well as a good asset to New Mexico.

Sincerely,

CC: Governor Bill Richardson Secretary Ron Curry

> E-RIDS = ADM-03 Add = M. Wong (MCW) T. Johnson (TCJ)

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