

February 17, 2004

Ms. Holly B. E. Houghten
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Mescalero Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero, New Mexico 88340

SUBJECT: INITIATION OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT
SECTION 106 CONSULTATION FOR LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES
PROPOSED GAS CENTRIFUGE URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY IN LEA
COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

Dear Ms. Houghten:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has recently received an application from Louisiana Energy Services (LES) to construct, operate, and decommission the National Enrichment Facility (NEF), a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility. The proposed NEF would be located near Eunice, New Mexico, in Lea County and would be within a 543 acre parcel of land that LES is in the process of acquiring from the State of New Mexico. The NRC is in the initial stages of developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will document the impacts associated with the NEF.

In September 2003, LES performed a survey of the proposed NEF site. Seven prehistoric archeological sites were identified with several of these sites occurring in the area of potential effects (APE). One site that may be affected is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historical Places. The APE is considered the NEF site area including permanent and temporary building(s) footprints, parking and lay-down areas, and all site access roads. LES has indicated that it intends to submit the complete Cultural Resources Survey Report of all survey findings.

The NRC staff is soliciting information from potential consulting parties as the NRC begins it's Section 106 consultation with the New Mexico State Historical Preservation Office. As the NRC staff intends to use the EIS process for Section 106 purposes, we would also like to invite you to attend a public meeting that we will be hosting on Thursday, March 4, 2004, at the Eunice Community Center, 1115 Avenue I, in Eunice, New Mexico, from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to solicit comments from members of the public on the scope of the EIS review.

Ms. H. Houghten

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If you are unable to attend this meeting, we would still like to hear from you. You are invited to contact Matthew Blevins of my staff at (301) 415-7684 so we may hear your comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lawrence E. Kokajko, Chief
Environmental and Performance
Assessment Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 70-3103

Attachment: Cultural Resources Information for LES National Enrichment Facility,
Environmental Report, December 12, 2003

cc: Ms. Jan Biella
Deputy SHPO
Historic Preservation Division
Office of Cultural Affairs
228 East Palace Avenue
Santa Fe, NM 87503

Identical Letter sent to:

Alonso Chalepah, Chairman
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 1220
Anadarko, OK 73005

Jimmy Arterberry, Director of Environment
Comanche of Oklahoma
PO Box 908
Lawton, OK 73502

Clifford A. McKenzie, Chairman
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 369
Carnegie, OK 73015

Arturo Sinclair, Governor
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
P.O. Box 17579 - Ysleta Station
El Paso, TX 79917

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ADAMS: ML 040500295***see previous concurrence**

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| OFC | DWM/EPAB | SC:DWM/EPAB | OGC | BC:DWM/EPAB |
| NAME | MBlevins:rmh* | SCFlanders* | LClark:NLO* | LEKokajko |
| DATE | 2/05/04 | 2/ 17 /04 | 2/5/04 | 02/17 /04 |

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(Initials) (Date)

Please address letter to the following people:

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