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To: <LES_EIS@nrc.gov>
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 2, 2004
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With permission from Vina Colley, president of PRESS and chairperson of National Nuclear Workers for Justice, the Citizens Nuclear Information Council releases the following statement to be submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding the proposed uranium enrichment facility in Lea County.

Statement by Vina Colley, President, Portsmouth/Piketon Residents for Environmental Safety and Security (PRESS) on the uranium enrichment facility proposed to be built by Louisiana Energy Services (LES) in Eunice, New Mexico submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, March 4, 2004

As one who knows first hand the physical horror of radioactive exposure, I urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the people of Lea County, New Mexico, to reject the application by LES to build a uranium enrichment facility outside Eunice.

I was once a healthy young woman enticed by the promise of a secure job in an growing industry when I became an electrician at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Ohio.

Over a period of time, I was exposed to a wide array of radioactive and hazardous substances which have adversely affected my health. These adverse affects include immune system dysfunctional, organic brain syndrome secondary to TCE exposure, short-term memory loss, thyroid problems bronchitis, 50% pulmonary dysfunction, osteoarthritis from fluoride exposure, Fibromyalgia, and calcified gramulomas. I have had three tumors removed, one of which was in the back of my head, and undergone a total hysterectomy.

If Lea County is anything like Portsmouth, people there are eager for the promise of steady employment. Given all I and many of my co-workers have been through, please allow me to state the obvious: the risk to your health -- or the health of your son, daughter, husband or wife -- if you work in one of the facilities is not worth any amount of pay or perceived security.

Also, given the fact that the applicant, Louisiana Energy Services, has not solved the problem of deconversion and storage of the waste this plant would produce, I can only recommend that this application be rejected if for that reason alone. We know from our experience in Paducah, Portsmouth and elsewhere that prolonged storage of nuclear waste can and does leak into and damage the environment.

If I can save only one individual from suffering the fate I have experienced, my efforts will be worth. By rejecting this application, you can potentially save an entire community.

Respectfully.

Vina Colley.

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