

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

To: Virgilio, NMSS

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PAPER NUMBER: LTR-04-0131 **LOGGING DATE:** 03/09/2004
ACTION OFFICE: EDO
AUTHOR: Karen Stevens
AFFILIATION: NM
ADDRESSEE: Nils Diaz
SUBJECT: Letter Supporting application by Louisiana Energy Services (LES) to build and operate a Uranium Enrichment Plant in Lea Co., NM
ACTION: Appropriate
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LETTER DATE: 02/27/2004
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
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JAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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February 27, 2004

Chairman Nils Diaz
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Diaz,

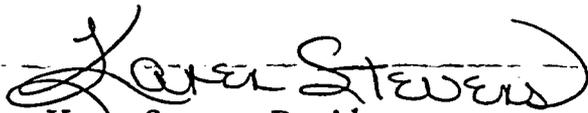
In regards to the application by Louisiana Energy Services (LES) to build and operate a Uranium Enrichment Plant in Lea County, New Mexico, the Board of Directors of the Jal Chamber of Commerce would like to offer our utmost support.

Jal is located approximately 25 miles south of the proposed facility, in southern Lea County. Our economy has relied on the energy industry throughout most of our history. Many years of oil and gas production have acquainted us with the hazards and benefits that go hand-in-hand with any type of energy production. We have no doubt that this facility will be operated in a safe and efficient manner that will be beneficial to the people of Lea County, and in the best interests of our national energy needs.

The estimated 210 full-time jobs that will result from the operation of this facility will be a tremendous boon to the economy of southeastern New Mexico—an area that has faced difficult times for the past 15-20 years. If for no other reason, the people of this area have voiced strong support for this project. Our meetings with LES representatives and visits by local officials to the enrichment plant in Almelo, Netherlands have further convinced us of the safety and efficacy of such a facility.

We understand that the application review process by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is a necessary and important part of the creation of this plant. We pledge to cooperate fully with the NRC in any way we might be called upon to see that this license application is reviewed in a timely manner that will ensure safe, efficient and secure operation of the proposed National Enrichment Facility. Thank you for your consideration, *and we invite you to visit us in Jal anytime!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Stevens". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

Karen Stevens, President
Jal Chamber of Commerce

www.jalnm.com

Cc: Governor Bill Richardson
Environment Dept. Secretary Ron Curry