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To: Virgilio, NMSS

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ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Robert Turner

AFFILIATION: NM

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Nils Diaz

SUBJECT: Letter supporting Louisiana Energy Services' (LES) application to build and operate a National Enrichment Facility in Lea Co., NM

ACTION: Appropriate

DISTRIBUTION: Cy RF

LETTER DATE: 03/02/2004

ACKNOWLEDGED: No

SPECIAL HANDLING: ADAMS for Immediate Release via SECY/EDO/DPC

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: **DATE SIGNED:**

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NAACP

HOBBS BRANCH

March 2, 2004

Mr. Nils J. Diaz, Ph. D –Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Dr. Diaz,

I am writing this letter in support of Louisiana Energy Services' (LES) application to build a National Uranium Enrichment Plant in Lea County, New Mexico. This organization strongly supports this initiative, and we are convinced that the plant will be environmentally safe and economically productive. The facility will bring much needed jobs to the area for all our people. These types of jobs are important to the growth of our community because it gives our children a choice other than the one to moving out of the community to find this type of employment.

Recently I had a chance to travel to Almelo, Netherlands with an entourage of citizens from Hobbs, Eunice and Albuquerque. We went to view the Almelo Enrichment Facility. The facility is safe, well operated, and a tremendous asset to the community. The citizens spoke very highly about its operational philosophy, it's participation in community activities and in general what an asset the plant was to Almelo. I didn't hear anything negative considering the plant from the citizens of Almelo. The plant is located in close proximity to the city and we were told that the city expanded toward the plant and not away from it.

While touring the plant I was able to see how clean the floors were, and how well the grounds were kept. I also took a picture standing beside the Uranium By-Product Cylinders (UBC's) and I didn't see any leakage or any

kind of outside damage to the cylinders. These containers have safely transported similar materials throughout the United States for over fifty years and in addition, URENCO has stored and transported uranium by-products, safely for thirty years. We toured the plant that they are planning to replicate here in New Mexico and it is a magnificent structure. It was easily to see the many upgrades that the company has made from an older plant to the newer plant.

I believe that LES will coordinate all emergency planning measures with federal, state, and local emergency response agencies, law enforcement, fire departments and hospitals.

We are excited about the possibility of seeing such a structure existing here in New Mexico; therefore, we urge the approval of the license to construct the facility as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Turner".

Robert Turner
Member, NAACP-Hobbs Branch