

March 18, 2004

Mr. Lewis Robertson  
Lea County Archaeological Society  
1980 NE 1001  
Andrews, TX 79714-9154

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 Mr. Robertson:

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. We would like your assistance in our review of the cultural resources impacts.

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. Attached is information LES provided in its Environmental Report relative to cultural resources. We are currently reviewing this information. LES has indicated that it intends to submit the complete Cultural Resources Survey Report of all survey findings.

L. Robertson

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The NRC staff is soliciting information from a number of stakeholders as the NRC begins its Section 106 consultation with the New Mexico State Historical Preservation Office, as required by the National Historic Preservation Act. We request that you provide any information that you may have relative to this proposed action or the Section 106 consultation. Please contact Matthew Blevins of my staff at (301) 415-7684 if you have any questions.

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 (ML040500429)

cc: Ms. Jan Biella (without Enclosure)  
Deputy SHPO  
Historic Preservation Division  
Office of Cultural Affairs  
228 East Palace Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87503

Service List (without Enclosure)

L. Robertson

-2-

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228 East Palace Avenue  
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<b>DATE</b>	2/26/04	3/11/04	3/18 /04	3/ 18 /04

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