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**HOBBS MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent**

**Stan Rounds, Superintendent
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March 4, 2004

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

Governor Bill Richardson
State Capitol
Room 400
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Secretary Ron Curry
Environment Department
1190 St. Francis Dr.
Harold Runnels Bldg.
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

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Rules and Directives
Branch
Dated

Dear Sirs:

We are at the threshold of an opportunity to make significant improvement to the economy of Lea County and New Mexico with the application of the LES National Enrichment Facility for placement in Eunice, New Mexico. As the largest school district and as a partner with the other four school districts in Lea County, the Hobbs Schools have been actively involved in ensuring that the educational landscape in Lea County is prepared to affirmatively respond to the needs presented by this endeavor. We have found LES/NEF to be an active partner in planning and interaction with the schools. Already a number of initiatives have been undertaken jointly:

- The Superintendents of Lea County along with New Mexico Junior College have met several times with LES/NEF personnel to design curricula appropriate to the forecast needs for employment;
- The Hobbs Schools have benefited from efforts of personnel from NEF to provide educational enhancements at Hobbs High School in the current year;
- A robust school-to-work plan is being jointly developed which is designed to keep Lea County students employed in Lea County by preparing them with employment skills appropriate to this effort;
- Continued dialogue will assure that LES/NEF continues to act as a good neighbor in the schools and throughout our communities.

As we prepare for the inclusion of 400-800 short term jobs in Lea County and prepare to accept the responsibility to serve the eventual 210 employees that will permanently staff the first phase of this facility, we are sure that LES/NEF will continue the cooperation and partnership necessary to ensure the continuation of a high quality education for our students.

I urge your support for this application and assure you of our support of this venture.

Sincerely,



Stan Rounds
Superintendent

F-RFDS=ADM-03
Call = T. Johnson (TCJ)
m. Wong (MCW)

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