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

FR 5734 RECEIVED 69

2004 JUL - 1 PH 3: 48

Rules and Directives Branch

Dear Chairman Diaz,

I would like to take this opportunity to endorse the National Enrichment Facility (NEF) and provide my support for their uranium enrichment plant. This facility will provide a sustainable domestic supply of "low enriched uranium" that is essential for fueling commercial nuclear power plants.

The state of New Mexico has a notable history as a hub of scientific research and development. The NEF is a strong supporter of the communities in Lea County and will provide many benefits such as:

- Create many job opportunities, short and long term
- Diversify the region's current economic base
- Provide employees with necessary training •

Louisiana Energy Services will continue to contribute to a wide range of organizations and help to boost the economy of the southeastern part of the state. They are a most welcome addition to New Mexico.

Sincerely,

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Governor Bill Richardson CC: Secretary Ron Curry

> E-RIDS= ADM-03 Add = M. Wong (HCW) T. Johnson (TCJ)