

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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Santa Fe

August 23, 2004

04 AUG 31 AM 9:35
CHAIRMAN REC'D

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

Dear Chairman Diaz:

**Re: National Enrichment Facility
Eunice, New Mexico**

Last year, I became aware of LES and the proposed National Enrichment Facility ("NEF"). At first, I had many questions about the project, and I wanted to learn more. I have spoken to the LES management team, and they have answered my questions. Many of my colleagues have been able to visit the model facility in the Netherlands and have had only good things to say about this project. That is why I support this project.

The NEF will use a proven technology that has been used in Europe for over 30 years and has not had any adverse affect on the environment or the people who live around the facilities. I feel confident that the National Enrichment Facility can bring benefits to New Mexico, and to our nation, while safeguarding my friends, family and our environment.

Based on my encounters with the LES team, I am sure your careful consideration of the application will lead you to the same conclusion—this is a good plan, and LES will be good for our country.

Sincerely,

Ben D. Altamirano
Ben Altamirano

cc: The Honorable Bill Richardson
Governor, State of New Mexico

The Honorable Ron Curry
Secretary, Environment Department
State of New Mexico