



Docket No. 70-3103

NEW MEXICO JUNIOR COLLEGE

October 14, 2004  
Arts and Sciences

11/22/04 RDB  
received

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

9/17/04  
69FR56104  
(94)

Dear Chairman Diaz:

As the Interim Dean of Arts & Sciences and Geology Professor at New Mexico Junior College and as one of the lucky ones that actually got to go to Amelo last November, I am writing this statement in support of the National Enrichment Facility (NEF) that is being proposed for Lea County, New Mexico.

It is my understanding that this facility being proposed here in Eunice will be modeled after the facility in Amelo, Netherlands. If indeed this is the case, then I am quite comfortable with this plan.

Environmentally speaking, if it is built and operated like the one in Amelo, then the people of Lea County and especially, Eunice will be completely safe and sound. There will be very little, if any, impact on the air, ground, and water.

- The facility in Amelo was built right next to a beautiful public campground. There seemed to be no disruption to the local farming or livestock in the area surrounding the facility.
- Amelo is just barely above sea level and so their facility sits right on top of their water supply. According to the workers in the facility and the local people in the area, they have had no problems. The plant itself had canals running through the well kept grounds with grass, trees, and even ducks.
- In Amelo, the process of enriching uranium happens in an enclosed system. The air that is expelled goes through a purification process before reaching the outside atmosphere.

My only concern is the by-product that will be generated. Once again, if this facility is operated like the one in Amelo, the amount of by-product actually stored at the facility will be minimal. There were 400 canisters on their premises. In Amelo, they regularly sent their by-product (depleted uranium) to either France for the removal of the fluorine and the remainder to be

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disposed of or to Russia to be recycled through yet another enrichment process.

I'm in favor of making sure that these canisters of depleted uranium get recycled and used again or disposed of properly so that they don't become an environmental hazard years from now and are not an eye-sore in our backyard!

Other than that, I think having the National Enrichment Facility here in SE New Mexico will be just as much of an asset to this area and the nation as WIPP has been. Need I remind you that there was much controversy over WIPP being here before it was operational, as well.

With a finite supply of natural resources, we need alternative methods of providing electricity for the United States that can be created right here in the U.S. instead of becoming dependent on other countries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Holladay".

Kelly Holladay  
Interim Dean of Arts & Sciences and Professor of Geology  
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Hobbs, New Mexico  
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