

December 15, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael T. Lesar, Chief
Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Office of Administration

FROM: B. Jennifer Davis, Chief **/RA/**
Environmental and Performance
Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER OF EXTENSION OF PUBLIC
COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED NATIONAL ENRICHMENT
FACILITY IN LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

Attached please find one signed original, four copies, and an electronic version on a 3.5-inch diskette of the subject *Federal Register* Notice for transmittal to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Docket No.: 70-3103
License No.: N/A

Staff Contact: James Park
Phone No.: (301) 415-5835

Attachments: 1. One original and four copies
2. One 3.5-inch diskette (electronic version)

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Initials Date

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Extension of Public Comment Period:

Louisiana Energy Services National Enrichment Facility

AGENCY: United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

ACTION: Extension of Public Comment Period

SUMMARY: The NRC is extending further the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed National Enrichment Facility (NEF) in Lea County, New Mexico (NUREG-1790). The notice of availability of the DEIS appeared in the Federal Register on September 17, 2004 (69 FR 56104), with the public comment period to end on November 6, 2004. On November 9, 2004, the NRC extended the public comment period until December 18, 2004 (69 FR 64983).

On October 25, 2004, the NRC suspended public access to its Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) database accessible through the NRC's website and initiated an additional security review of publicly-available documents to ensure that potentially sensitive information is removed. This security review is ongoing and the exact date of its completion is not certain.

However, from October 25, 2004, until December 6, 2004, members of the public continued to have access to the DEIS through NRC's project-specific website (<http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/lesfacility.html>). Members of the public also had access to the Environmental Report (ER) submitted by Louisiana Energy Services (LES) for the NEF through the same website until November 28, 2004. The links to the DEIS and the ER were suspended on December 7, 2004, and on November 29, 2004, respectively, while the NRC staff conducted its security review of these documents.

By this notice, the public comment period on the DEIS is being extended further until January 7, 2005. This extension of the public comment period will allow members of the public an additional opportunity to obtain relevant documents in order to comment on the DEIS. The NRC staff will make available on its project-specific website redacted copies of the DEIS, the ER, and LES's responses to NRC staff requests for additional information related to the ER. Redacted versions of these documents are expected to be accessible beginning on December 23, 2004. Interested members of the public may obtain copies of additional publicly-available documents for review and/or copying by contacting the NRC Public Document Room. The NRC Public Document Room is located at NRC Headquarters in Rockville, MD, and can be contacted at 800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737 or pdr@nrc.gov.

Members of the public are invited and encouraged to submit comments to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Mail Stop T6-D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001. Please note Docket No. 70-3103 when submitting comments. Written comments submitted by mail should be postmarked by January 7, 2005, to ensure consideration. Comments mailed after that date will be considered to the extent practical. Comments will also be accepted by e-mail to nrcprep@nrc.gov, or by facsimile to 301-415-5397, Attention: Anna Bradford.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general or technical information associated with the license review of the National Enrichment Facility, please contact Timothy Johnson at (301) 415-7299. For general information on the NRC environmental review process, please contact either Anna Bradford at (301) 415-5228 or James Park at (301) 415-5835.

Dated at Rockville, MD, this 15th day of December 2004.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

/RA/

B. Jennifer Davis, Chief
Environmental and Low-Level Waste Section
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards