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December 9, 2004

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

Dear Chairman Diaz:

9/17/04 69FR56104

This letter is written in support of Louisiana Energy Services license application to build and operate the National Enrichment Facility (NEF) outside of Eunice, New Mexico.

Having lived in southeastern New Mexico all my life, I can appreciate the opportunity we in Lea County have to welcome a new energy industry into our community. The NEF will give Lea County welcome relief from our overdependence on the oil and gas industries. Our community will benefit both from the new jobs and from the money the NEF will spend locally.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement said exactly what I thought it would; that the NEF is both safe and environmentally sound.

I encourage the NRC to grant LES their license to run the National Enrichment Facility. We in Lea County are ready to welcome our new neighbor!

Sincerely, farry Column

Eunie cc: Governor Bill Richardson NMED Secretary Ron Curry New Mexico Attorney General Patricia Madrid

E-RIDS = ADM-03 add = A. Mortford (AHBI) M. Jolunion (TCS)

SISP Review Complete Template = ADM-013