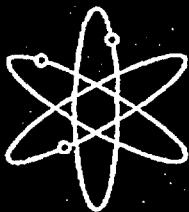


**D. PALMROSE STAFF EXHIBIT 1**

**NIRS/PC EC-4**



# **Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed National Enrichment Facility in Lea County, New Mexico**

**Draft Report for Comment**

**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
Washington, DC 20555-0001**



1 connected actions that include the overall nuclear fuel cycle activities were not considered. The proposed  
2 NEF would not measurably affect the mining and milling operations and the demand for enriched  
3 uranium. The amount of mining and milling is dependent upon the stability of market prices for uranium  
4 balanced with the concern of environmental impacts associated with such operations (NRC, 1980). The  
5 demand for enriched uranium in the United States is primarily driven by the number of commercial  
6 nuclear power plants and their operation. The proposed NEF will only result in the creation of new  
7 transportation routes within the fuel cycle to and from the enrichment facility. The existing  
8 transportation routes between the other facilities are not expected to be altered. Because the  
9 environmental impacts of all of the transportation routes other than those to and from the proposed NEF  
10 have been previously analyzed, they are eliminated from further study (NRC, 1980; NRC, 1977).

#### 11 12 **1.4.4 Issues Outside the Scope of the EIS**

13  
14 The following issues were identified during the scoping process to be outside the scope of the EIS:

- 15 • Nonproliferation.
- 16 • Public scoping process.
- 17 • Safety and security.

18  
19  
20 A summary of the scoping process is contained in Appendix A.

#### 21 22 **1.4.5 Related NEPA and Other Relevant Documents**

23  
24 The following NEPA documents were reviewed as part of the development of this Draft EIS to obtain  
25 information related to the issues raised.

- 26  
27 • *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operation of Claiborne Enrichment  
28 Center, Homer, Louisiana. NUREG-1484, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S.  
29 Nuclear Regulatory Commission, August 1994.* This EIS was developed to analyze the  
30 environmental consequences for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of a uranium  
31 enrichment facility in Claiborne, Louisiana, by LES. The proposed facility, which was never  
32 constructed, was based on a similar technology to that proposed for Lea County, New Mexico. Due  
33 to the similarities in technology and facilities, the impacts resulting from implementing the proposed  
34 action in Lea County could be compared to those estimated for the Claiborne facility.
- 35  
36 • *Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Alternative Strategies for the Long-Term  
37 Management and Use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride. DOE/EIS-0269, Office of Nuclear Energy,  
38 Science and Technology, U.S. Department of Energy, April 1999.* This EIS analyzes strategies for  
39 the long-term management of the depleted uranium hexafluoride (DUF<sub>6</sub>) inventory currently stored at  
40 three DOE sites near Paducah, Kentucky; Portsmouth, Ohio; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This EIS  
41 also analyzes the potential environmental consequences of implementing each alternative strategy for  
42 the period from 1999 through 2039. The results presented in this EIS are relevant to the  
43 management, use, and potential impacts associated with the DUF<sub>6</sub> that would be generated at the  
44 proposed NEF.
- 45  
46 • *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operation of a Depleted Uranium  
47 Hexafluoride Conversion Facility at the Paducah, Kentucky, Site. DOE/EIS-0359, Oak Ridge  
48 Operations, Office of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy, June 2004.* This site-  
49 specific EIS considers the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the

- 1 • proposed DUF<sub>6</sub> conversion facility at three locations within the Paducah, Kentucky, site, which is a  
2 DOE facility; transportation of DUF<sub>6</sub> conversion products and waste materials to a disposal facility;  
3 transportation and sale of the hydrogen fluoride produced as a conversion co-product; and  
4 neutralization of hydrogen fluoride to calcium fluoride and its sale or disposal in the event that the  
5 hydrogen fluoride product is not sold. The results presented in this EIS are relevant to the  
6 management, use, and potential impacts associated with the DUF<sub>6</sub> that would be generated at the  
7 proposed NEF.  
8
- 9 • *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction and Operation of a Depleted Uranium*  
10 *Hexafluoride Conversion Facility at the Portsmouth, Ohio, Site. DOE/EIS-0360, Oak Ridge*  
11 *Operations, Office of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy, June 2004.* This  
12 site-specific EIS analyzes the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the  
13 proposed DUF<sub>6</sub> conversion facility at three alternative locations within the Portsmouth, Ohio, site;  
14 transportation of all cylinders (DUF<sub>6</sub>, enriched uranium, and empty) currently stored at the East  
15 Tennessee Technology Park near Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to Portsmouth; construction of a new  
16 cylinder storage yard at Portsmouth (if required) for cylinders from the East Tennessee Technology  
17 Park; transportation of DUF<sub>6</sub> conversion products and waste materials to a disposal facility;  
18 transportation and sale of the hydrogen fluoride produced as a conversion co-product; and  
19 neutralization of hydrogen fluoride to calcium fluoride and its sale or disposal in the event that the  
20 hydrogen fluoride product is not sold. The results presented in this EIS are relevant to the  
21 management, use, and potential impacts associated with the DUF<sub>6</sub> that would be generated at the  
22 proposed NEF.  
23
- 24 • *Environmental Assessment: Disposition of Russian Federation Titled Natural Uranium.*  
25 *DOE/EA-1290, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, U.S. Department of Energy, June*  
26 *1999.* This Environmental Assessment analyzed the environmental impacts of transporting natural  
27 UF<sub>6</sub> from the gaseous diffusion plants to the Russian Federation. Transportation by rail and truck  
28 were considered. The Environmental Assessment addresses both incident-free transportation and  
29 transportation accidents. The results presented in this Environmental Assessment are relevant to the  
30 transportation of UF<sub>6</sub> for the proposed NEF.  
31

32 **1.5 Applicable Regulatory Requirements**

33  
34 This section provides a summary assessment of major environmental requirements, agreements,  
35 Executive Orders, and permits relevant to the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the  
36 proposed NEF.  
37

38 **1.5.1 Federal Laws and Regulations**

39  
40 **1.5.1.1 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.)**

41  
42 NEPA establishes national environmental policy and goals for the protection, maintenance, and  
43 enhancement of the environment to ensure for all Americans a safe, healthful, productive, and  
44 aesthetically and culturally pleasing environment. NEPA provides a process for implementing these  
45 specific goals within the Federal agencies responsible for the action. This Draft EIS has been prepared in  
46 accordance with NEPA requirements and NRC regulations (10 CFR Part 51) for implementing NEPA.  
47  
48