R. NEVIN STAFF EXHIBIT 9

NIRS/PC EC-7

NATIONAL ENRICHMENT FACILITY

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LES Announces First Round of Signed Contracts

December 10, 2003, Albuquerque – Louisiana Energy Services (LES) announced the first round of contracts with several US nuclear power plants including Exelon were signed this week. These contracts represent the sale of almost 50% of the National Enrichment Facility (NEF) first ten years of production.

"This first round of contracts demonstrate the strong need for a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility within the US nuclear power industry, " said Jim Ferland, President of LES. "The NEF will establish a competitive, market and help decrease US dependence on enriched uranium from other countries. The signing of the first round of contracts and the support we have received for the NEF in Lea County New Mexico gives us a great deal of confidence in the future of this project."

The nuclear power industry has long supported increased competition in the Unites States uranium enrichment marketplace. Today, there is only one source of enriched uranium in the United States, which provides only 12-15 percent of the demand. The NEF will, for the first time, provide an alternative and competitive fuel supply, a key ingredient in national energy security.

"Exelon is pleased to be one of the first companies to sign a long-term purchase contract with NEF," said Oliver Kingsley, President and Chief Operating Officer of Exelon Corporation. "The NEF is very important in ensuring that nuclear power maintains a competitive position in delivering over 20% of the electricity used in the United States" "This facility will enable Exelon, and in fact all U.S. nuclear utilities, to maintain the assurance of a fairly priced and secure domestic supply of nuclear fuel.

LES announced the location to build the National Enrichment Facility (NEF) at a ceremony in early September featuring New Mexico officials including Senators Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman, Governor Bill Richardson, Congressman Steve Pearce and numerous other state and local officials.

LES currently is a partnership of major companies in the nuclear energy business in the United States and in Europe. Partners include Urenco (a British, Dutch and German partnership) and US utilities Duke Power, Entergy and Exelon. LES plans to build a uranium enrichment facility 5 miles east of Eunice, New Mexico.

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