



**Proposed Louisiana Energy Services
Gas Centrifuge Uranium Enrichment Facility
Final Environmental Impact Statement
Meeting Fact Sheet**

Summary

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has completed its final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed Louisiana Energy Services (LES) National Enrichment Facility (NEF) in Eunice, New Mexico. This purpose of this meeting, in part, is to provide the NRC staff an opportunity to discuss with members of the public the results of the NRC's environmental review of the proposed facility. The public is encouraged to comment on the results of the NRC staff's review at this meeting.

**What needs to
be decided?**

The NRC is an independent government agency that is responsible for protecting public health and safety and the environment with respect to the safe use of nuclear materials in the United States. To ensure this protection, the NRC must decide whether or not to grant a license authorizing the construction and operation of the proposed NEF. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), federal actions that have the potential for significantly affecting the quality of the human environment require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The NRC will consider information obtained from this FEIS as part of its licensing decision regarding authorization to build and operate the proposed NEF.

Background

The NRC received a license application and an environmental report for the proposed NEF from LES in December 2003. The application is for a license to build and operate a gas centrifuge enrichment facility that would enrich uranium for use in manufacturing commercial nuclear fuel for use in power reactors. LES proposes to use centrifuge technology to enrich the isotope Uranium-235 in uranium hexafluoride (UF₆), up to 5 percent. In the environmental report, LES discussed the environmental consequences of this proposal and of several alternatives related to the construction and operation of this facility. The NRC staff has evaluated the environmental consequences and presents the results in the FEIS.

**What does the
FEIS address?**

The purpose of an EIS is to present, evaluate, and compare the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and of various reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. The FEIS evaluates in detail the environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed NEF. The FEIS also evaluates the impacts of the no-action alternative, under which the NRC would not approve the license application to construct and operate the proposed NEF.

**What is the
Scope of the
FEIS?**

The FEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed LES enrichment facility in Eunice, New Mexico. As part of its impact analysis, the FEIS documents the impacts from normal operations of the proposed facility, as well as those from selected accident scenarios. The "Environmental Impacts" section of the FEIS evaluates the impacts that the proposed action could have on: *Land Use, Transportation, Soils, Air Quality, Socioeconomics, Public and Occupational Health, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, Historical and Cultural Resources, Scenic Resources, Ecological Resources, Noise, and Water Resources*. The FEIS also describes proposed measures that would lessen potential impacts from the construction and operation of the NEF.

***Information
Contacts***

For information on the NRC NEPA process as applied to the LES NEF, please contact James Park at (301) 415-5835. For technical information associated with the proposed facility, please contact Tim Johnson at (301) 415-7299. Information and documents associated with the LES gas enrichment centrifuge facility project may be obtained from the NRC's LES Facility web-page: <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/lesfacility.html> and through the NRC's electronic reading room <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm.html>. Documents may also be obtained from NRC's Public Document Room located at U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland.



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Summary of Environmental Impacts**

Resource Area *	Proposed Action				No-Action Alternative			
	Small	Small to Moderate	Moderate	Large	Small	Small to Moderate	Moderate	Large
Land Use	X				X			
Historical and Cultural Resources	X					X		
Visual and Scenic Resources	X				X			
Air Quality	X				X			
Geology and Soils	X				X			
Water Resources	X				X			
Ecological Resources	X				X			
Socioeconomics (employment, tax revenues)			X				X	
Socioeconomics (population, housing, & public services)	X				X			
Environmental Justice	X				X			
Noise	X				X			

Categories of Environmental Impacts

Small: Not detectable or are so minor that they would neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important attribute of the resource

Moderate: Sufficient to noticeably alter but not destabilize important attributes of the resource

Large: Clearly noticeable and sufficient to destabilize important attributes of the resource



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Summary of Environmental Impacts (continued)**

Resource Area *	Proposed Action				No-Action Alternative			
	Small	Small to Moderate	Moderate	Large	Small	Small to Moderate	Moderate	Large
Transportation (construction)		X			X			
Transportation (normal operations)	X				X			
Transportation (accidents)		X			X			
Transportation (decommissioning)	X				X			
Public and Occupational Health (construction & normal operations)	X				X			
Public and Occupational Health (accidents)		X			X			
Public and Occupational Health (decommissioning)	X				X			
Waste Management (construction & normal operations)	X				X			
Waste Management (decommissioning)	X				X			
Waste Management (temporary on-site storage)		X			X			

* When not otherwise indicated, impacts to a Resource Area are for Construction, Normal Operations, Accidents, and Decommissioning