

RAS 11311

STEVAN PEARCE
2ND DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

1607 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2365

www.house.gov/pearce

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3102

Talking Points for NRC Public Hearing
LES National Enrichment Facility

COMMITTEES:
FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER CREDIT

HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY
ECONOMIC SECURITY, INFRASTRUCTURE
PROTECTION AND CYBERSECURITY
INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION SHARING
AND TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENT

RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEES:
WATER AND POWER
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

I am Pamela Bengé, District Representative for Congressman Steve Pearce.

I would like to thank the NRC Licensing Board for presiding over the National Enrichment Facility licensing proceedings. I am confident the Nuclear Regulatory Commission process will assure the NEF will be safe.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement issued by the NRC on June, 15, 2005, determined that the NEF will have minimal environmental impact, but will have a positive socioeconomic impact, providing jobs and revenue to the local economy. The EIS stated "The NRC staff recommends that, unless safety issues mandate otherwise, the proposed license be issued to LES." This is a very strong statement by the NRC.

The NEF will help provide energy independence for the United States as an additional, reliable and economical domestic source of enrichment services. The NEF will contribute to our nation's energy security needs. NEF will provide a sustainable domestic supply of low enriched uranium, thereby substantially reducing U.S. reliance on the global nuclear fuel marketplace and encouraging competition within the U.S. market.

The Safety Evaluation Report issued by the NRC on June 15, 2005 stated "operation of the facility does not pose an undue risk to worker and public health and safety." (page iii of the SER) The NRC staff stated, "The plans and commitments described in the application provide reasonable assurance that an acceptable organization, administrative policies and sufficient competent resources have been established or committed for the design, construction and safe operation of the facility." (page xv of the SER)

LES has been open and honest about the NEF operations, and have kept our office as well as the county and communities informed about each step of the process. The NEF is the world's most advanced, energy-efficient and cost-effective uranium enrichment technology. It is a safe process that has been in use for more than 30 years. The proposed LES facility is both safe and environmentally sound, as attested to by the NRC in many documents.

LES has been upfront with the citizens of Lea County and the state of New Mexico in the disposal and deconversion, and disposed of in existing low-level radioactive waste facilities outside of the state.

DISTRICT OFFICES:

400 NORTH TELSHOR
SUITE E
LAS CRUCES, NM 88011
(505) 522-2219

1717 WEST 2ND STREET
SUITE 100
ROSWELL, NM 88201
(505) 622-0055

1923 NORTH DAL PASO
HOBBS, NM 88240
(505) 392-8325

111 SCHOOL OF MINES ROAD
SOCORRO, NM 87801
(505) 838-7516

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Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate Congressman Pearce's strong support for the license being issued to LES for the National Enrichment Facility in Lea County.

Thank you.