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**Official Transcript of Proceedings**  
**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Title: Louisiana Energy Services  
Limited Appearances Hearing

Docket Number: 70-3103-ML; ASLBP No.: 04-826-01-ML

Location: Hobbs, New Mexico

Date: Monday, March 6, 2006

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

(ASLB)

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LIMITED APPEARANCES HEARING

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In the Matter of:

LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES, L.P.      Docket Nos.  
70-3103-ML  
(National Enrichment Facility)      ASLBP No.  
04-826-01-ML

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Monday

March 6, 2006

New Mexico Junior College

Hobbs, New Mexico

The above-entitled matter came on for  
hearing, pursuant to notice, at 7:00 p.m.

BEFORE:

G. PAUL BOLLWERK, III      Chair  
PAUL B. ABRAMSON      Administrative Law Judge  
CHARLES N. KELBER      Administrative Law Judge

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APPEARANCES:

On Behalf of Louisiana Energy Services:

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Of: Winston & Strawn, LLP

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On Behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory

Commission:

LISA CLARK, ESQ.

MARGARET BUPP, ESQ.

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Also Present:

BETHANY ENGEL

ROD KRICH LES

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

7:00 p.m.

1  
2  
3 CHAIR BOLLWERK: All right, can we go on the  
4 record please? Good evening. I don't like to begin  
5 this evening by introducing ourselves. In accord with  
6 the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act and the  
7 regulations of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, we  
8 are three administrative judges appointed to sit as an  
9 Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to conduct an  
10 adjudicatory proceeding in connection with the  
11 December 2003 application of Louisiana Energy  
12 Service's LP or LES for a license under Part 70 of  
13 Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, called --  
14 referred to often as the CFR, for authorization to  
15 possess and use source byproduct and special nuclear  
16 material to enrich natural uranium to a maximum of  
17 five percent uranium 235 by the gas centrifuge  
18 process, which LES proposes to do in a facility  
19 denominated as the National Enrichment Facility to be  
20 constructed near Eunice, New Mexico.

21 To my right is Dr. Charles Kelber. Judge  
22 Kelber, a physicist, is a part-time member of the  
23 Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel. To my left  
24 is Dr. Paul Abramson.

25 Judge Abramson is both a physicist and an

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1 attorney, and a full-time member of the Licensing  
2 Board Panel. My name is Paul Bollwerk. I'm an  
3 attorney and the Chairman of this licensing board.

4 It's part of our function in connection with  
5 the LES Enrichment Facility proceeding, we're here  
6 this evening to entertain oral limited appearance  
7 statements in accordance with Section 2.315A of Title  
8 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

9 So there will be a common understanding  
10 about what's involved in the LES proceeding and with  
11 respect to the limited appearance statement process.  
12 I'd like to take a few minutes to provide some  
13 background about both.

14 In response to a Notice of Opportunity for  
15 a hearing published in the Federal Register in  
16 February 2004, in accordance with Title 10 of the  
17 Federal Regulations, Section 2.309, various  
18 interveners requested a hearing to challenge the  
19 December 2003 application of LES for permission to  
20 construct and operate the proposed NEF, which is  
21 intended to produce commercial nuclear power plant  
22 fuel.

23 Thereafter, in March and April of 2004, the  
24 various interveners submitted proposed issues for  
25 hearing, and LES and the NRC Staff filed responses to

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1 those issue statements as well as the intervener's  
2 arguments about why each had legal standing to be a  
3 party to the proceeding.

4           Thereafter, the five member Nuclear  
5 Regulatory Commission, having founded various  
6 petitioners, had legal standing to intervene in the  
7 proceeding in June -- assigned this case to this  
8 board.

9           And in June 2004 we conducted an initial  
10 pre-hearing conference in Hobbs, New Mexico, during  
11 which the various interveners, LES, and the NRC Staff  
12 had an additional opportunity to make oral  
13 presentations regarding the admissibility of the  
14 proffered issue statements, or contentions as they're  
15 referred to in NRC practice.

16           Based on the filings of the interveners,  
17 LES, and the Staff, and the oral argument in Hobbs, in  
18 a July 2004 ruling we concluded that each of the  
19 interveners had provided an admissible contention so  
20 as to be admitted as a party to the so-called  
21 contested proceeding.

22           In this regard, we admitted contentions  
23 concerning both technical and environmental aspects of  
24 the application. Following this ruling on contentions  
25 under the Agency's rules of practice in Part 2,

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1 subpart G of Title 10 of the Code of Federal  
2 Regulations that provide for a formal trial type  
3 hearing pursuant to a Board established schedule.

4 The parties conducted discovery regarding  
5 the admitted contentions. Thereafter, the Board  
6 conducted evidentiary hearing sessions here in Hobbs  
7 in January of --rather in February of 2005, and  
8 Commissions Headquarters in Rockville Maryland in  
9 October 2005, and more recently in February of 2006  
10 regarding the various contentions.

11 Two Board determinations regarding those  
12 issues have been issued. Two Board determinations  
13 regarding those issues have been issued. One in June  
14 of 2005, and just this past Friday we issued a second  
15 decision with an additional decision currently slated  
16 to be issued in late April or May 2006.

17 Also earlier today the Board conducted a so-  
18 called mandatory hearing in which the NRC Staff and  
19 LES made presentations to the Board regarding matters  
20 that the Board has raised outside the confines of the  
21 issues that are being litigated in the contested  
22 proceeding.

23 An additional decision regarding the matters  
24 raised in the mandatory hearing currently is slated to  
25 be issued in June of 2006. This in a nutshell

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1 describes the NRC adjudicatory process relating to  
2 this proceeding.

3 And this naturally prompts the question what  
4 then are the limited appearances in which the Board  
5 has invited public participation. Under Section  
6 2.315A of the Commission's regulations the Board has  
7 a discretion to entertain from any person who is not  
8 a party a written or oral statement of his or her  
9 position on the issues in the proceeding.

10 This provision, which was first adopted as  
11 part of the Agency's hearing rules back in 1962,  
12 recognizes there is a need to provide an opportunity  
13 for input from members of the public who, despite not  
14 having sought party status, have an interest in the  
15 subject matter of the proceeding.

16 As we indicated in the February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006  
17 Federal Register Notice scheduling today's session  
18 here in Hobbs, oral limited appearance statements,  
19 which will be transcribed and placed into the official  
20 Agency docket for this proceeding, are intended as an  
21 opportunity for members of the public to express their  
22 views and may help the Board or the parties in their  
23 consideration of the issues in this proceeding.

24 Indeed as you can see, like the Board  
25 several of the parties are here to listen to what is

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1 said this evening. In this regard I'd like to take a  
2 second now to have the representatives of those  
3 parties identify themselves for the rec.

4 Why don't we begin with Applicant LES and  
5 then the NRC Staff? Mr: Curtiss.

6 MR. CURTISS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm  
7 Jim Curtiss, Counsel to LES, and I'm here with Rod  
8 Krich who's the Vice President of LES for Licensing,  
9 Safety, and Nuclear Engineering.

10 CHAIR BOLLWERK: All right, the NRC Staff  
11 please.

12 MS. CLARK: Good evening. My name is Lisa  
13 Clark and I'm Counsel for NRC Staff, and with me today  
14 is Margaret Bupp.

15 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you very much. And  
16 in this regard let me emphasize again that this is an  
17 opportunity to hear from interested members of the  
18 public.

19 Consequently, as a general rule the  
20 representatives of the parties will not be making  
21 statements here this evening, rather like the Board  
22 they are here to listen.

23 I'd also just like to take a second to  
24 introduce some of the Staff that are with us this  
25 evening. Over here we have a number of members of the

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1 ASLBP technical staff who are actually here testing  
2 some technical equipment to help us manage large  
3 records in proceedings, such as the high-level waste  
4 case that may come about for the Yucca Mountain  
5 facility at some point as well as for the combined  
6 operating license cases that we're beginning to --  
7 there is beginning to be some interest expressed in  
8 new power reactors.

9 Those cases tend to generate a very large  
10 volume of documents and we're making an effort within  
11 the Agency to process those documents electronically.  
12 And those members of the Staff are here trying to  
13 develop a system that we can take on the road to the  
14 various hearings that we hold and conduct those  
15 proceedings.

16 I'd also like to introduce our Law Clerk  
17 Bethany Engle, who's been of great assistance to us  
18 during this proceeding. And back in the back many of  
19 you have met Libby Perch from our administrative  
20 staff.

21 I'd also like to take a special opportunity  
22 or this opportunity to thank the folks from the New  
23 Mexico Junior College. I said this several times as  
24 we -- yesterday and today in our mandatory hearing  
25 they've done an excellent job in helping us get ready

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1 for this proceeding and conducting it.

2 They have been available to us whenever we  
3 needed to talk with them and have made themselves and  
4 their equipment and their room available to us and we  
5 very much appreciate it.

6 I'd especially like to recognize Stacey  
7 Barchu who is the event's coordinator here at the New  
8 Mexico Junior College, as well as Bill Morel the  
9 security head, and Mike Rutledge who does continuing  
10 education on their technical coordinator.

11 Again we're very appreciative to the New  
12 Mexico Junior College for making this space available  
13 to us and for working with us in setting up our  
14 technical equipment here.

15 Finally let me say about a word about the  
16 procedure for making a limited appearance statement  
17 tonight. We had a number of individuals who  
18 preregistered and will generally be afforded an  
19 opportunity to speak first at this session.

20 Among them are a number of state, Federal,  
21 or local legislators of their authorized  
22 representatives. It's been our practice in the past  
23 to call on these elected representatives or their  
24 spokespersons to speak for us at these sessions.

25 We generally have found that members of the

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1 public attending these sessions have a keen interest  
2 in the views expressed by their elected  
3 representatives or those speaking on their behalf.

4 After hearing from these elected  
5 representatives or their authorized spokespersons,  
6 we'd then like to move on to other preregistered  
7 speakers.

8 In this regard I'd note that the Board  
9 previously conducted a limited appearance -- rather  
10 limited appearance sessions in February 2005 in Eunice  
11 as well as the session yesterday afternoon here in  
12 Hobbs.

13 What we wish to afford those who previously  
14 addressed us in 2005 in Eunice or yesterday afternoon,  
15 an opportunity to speak again. We think that as a  
16 general rule it's only fair that we hear first from  
17 those who have not yet addressed the Board.

18 Once we've heard from those who have  
19 preregistered but have not previously addressed the  
20 Board we'll then move on to anyone who registers this  
21 evening and has not previously addressed the Board.

22 For anyone who did not preregister but  
23 wishes to make a statement, on the table in the back  
24 is a sheet to write your name and your affiliation, if  
25 any.

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1 We'll collect those sheets from time to time  
2 and call the speakers in order as they sign in. If  
3 you did not preregister, and this is important, if you  
4 didn't preregister you must sign in if you wish to  
5 speak.

6 I would add that if you did preregister you  
7 do not need to sign in. You may have done so but it's  
8 not necessary as we already have your name.  
9 Additionally, if you'd like to provide your views to  
10 the Board but don't wish to make an oral statement,  
11 there are sheets on the table in the back that you can  
12 complete and leave with Ms. Perch in the back.

13 These written limited appearance statements  
14 will be reviewed by the Board members and placed in  
15 the Agency's official docket for this proceeding as  
16 well.

17 With regard to the oral statements we'd like  
18 -- we will try to keep watch on the time for each  
19 speaker and advise you when you need to conclude your  
20 remarks.

21 We indicated in the February 2006 Federal  
22 Register Notice and the scheduling information  
23 released to the press that we hope to be able to  
24 provide each speaker with up to five minutes to make  
25 a presentation.

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1           For this session, however, it's apparent  
2           from the number of pre-registrations and the size of  
3           the audience presently that speakers will have to keep  
4           their presentations to two minutes so we'll be able to  
5           hear from everyone in the time allotted.

6           I think you'd agree with me that it's  
7           important that everyone who's here and wants to speak  
8           be given some opportunity to be heard, and so we ask  
9           for your cooperation in terms of the lengths of the  
10          presentations.

11          Certainly those -- anyone that wishes to do  
12          so can supplement their remarks in writing on the  
13          sheets we've provided. And again I'd just simply say  
14          this is a balance.

15          We want to hear from everyone. We want to  
16          give everybody an opportunity to have a chance to  
17          speak. So we appreciate your cooperation and we will  
18          try to sort of watch things and give you some sense  
19          that you may be running a little long and it maybe  
20          time to summarize or wrap up your remarks.

21          But again, we appreciate your cooperation.  
22          Finally, as a matter of courtesy, we think it's  
23          important to allow the Board and the parties to hear  
24          fully the remarks of each speaker without intrusions.

25          Accordingly, I would ask that you respect

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1 each individual's right to address the Board by not  
2 unduly interrupting with verbal comments or other  
3 sounds either supporting or opposing the viewpoint  
4 being espoused.

5 And finally I would mention it would be very  
6 much appreciated if anyone that has a cell phone could  
7 turn it off while you're in this hearing room. We  
8 would like to hear the individuals speaking and not  
9 hear cell phones ringing from time to time.

10 We'd really appreciate that. All right,  
11 with that explanation, I recognize it was a lengthy  
12 one, we'd like to begin with our first speaker. And  
13 in that regard to be sure that things move along  
14 smoothly, we're going to try to announce several names  
15 and would ask that the individual speakers who are in  
16 the on deck circle, so to speak, be prepared to move  
17 to the microphone here at the podium, or we also have  
18 a microphone at the back of the room if you'd prefer  
19 to speak from back there, so that you can begin your  
20 remarks promptly after the preceding speaker is  
21 finished.

22 All right, the first speaker this evening we  
23 have is Diane Ventura who's a representative from  
24 Senator Jeff Bingaman's office.

25 MS. VENTURA: Good evening. These comments

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1 are for the record from United States Senator Jeff  
2 Bingaman. I would like to thank the Nuclear  
3 Regulatory Commission for traveling to Hobbs this week  
4 to hold this hearing on the National Enrichment  
5 Facility.

6 This is an opportunity for New Mexicans to  
7 observe and participate in an open and transparent  
8 hearing process. To date the licensing process before  
9 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and it's Atomic  
10 Safety Licensing Board has considered a number of  
11 difficult issues raised by all parties with an  
12 interest in this proceeding.

13 My paramount goals, which I believe are  
14 widely shared, are that the National Enrichment  
15 Facility operate in a safe and secure manner and that  
16 the facility not leave waste that future generations  
17 of New Mexicans will have to contend with.

18 I believe that the hearing process has  
19 helped to resolve many of the important detailed  
20 issues associated with my concerns. In some cases it  
21 has forced a reexamination of certain aspects of how  
22 we dispose of low-level radioactive waste for the  
23 nation as a whole.

24 I commend the Commission and the Board for  
25 their activities. I also want to thank Governor

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1 Richardson for his efforts to reach settlement with  
2 the Applicant on a number of difficult issues relating  
3 to the enrichment facility.

4 Much remains to be done until a license is  
5 issued, and much will remain to be done after that.

6 I want to emphasize though that throughout this  
7 process and in the future I expect all parties to this  
8 process to keep the above goals front and center as  
9 they move forward.

10 Again, my thanks to the Commission for  
11 holding these hearings in Hobbs today.

12 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you very much for  
13 joining us tonight. If you -- is that a statement?  
14 You can either give it to us or you can give it to Ms.  
15 Perch in the back, whichever you'd prefer.

16 Thank you. The next speaker is New Mexico  
17 State Senator Carroll Leavell. And you introduced  
18 yourself before and I probably just mispronounced your  
19 last name. I apologize.

20 SENATOR LEAVELL: You did very well sir,  
21 thank you.

22 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Close enough for Government  
23 work?

24 SENATOR LEAVELL: Yes, it's close enough for  
25 Government work. I'm New Mexico State Senator Carroll

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1 Leavell. I'm serving in my tenth year in the New  
2 Mexico State Senate.

3 I serve Senate District 41, which includes  
4 Levington, Hobbs, Eunice, Jal, Carlsbad, Leving, and  
5 Pacas Valley, the very southeast corner of New Mexico,  
6 and includes the area that is proposed for the LES  
7 construction.

8 I -- my home is in Jal which is 40 miles  
9 south of here and approximately 25 miles from the  
10 proposed site. I -- also included in Senate District  
11 41 is the Waste Isolation Pilot Project, and I have  
12 been serving in the New Mexico State Senate since  
13 before that received its final license and have seen  
14 the safe success that we have had with the storage of  
15 the transuranic waste at that site.

16 I will also tell you that I'm very familiar  
17 with the quality of life that the DOE and Westinghouse  
18 and the good jobs that have been provided for Carlsbad  
19 and for southeast New Mexico, and it's been major.

20 I also was involved with U.S. Enrichment  
21 Corporation when they were looking at the site that  
22 LES plans to use in 1999. And it was actually  
23 characterized for U.S. Enrichment Corporation at that  
24 time.

25 And their technology failed to be

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1 satisfactory to proceed with it. But I've also been  
2 involved with LES and their Staff with Urenco for over  
3 three years and have found their people to be most  
4 topnotch.

5 They've been certainly honest and  
6 straightforward with us at all times. I will tell you  
7 that the support for this project in Senate District  
8 41 is very, very strong.

9 I think a poll would probably show over 90  
10 percent. And with those odds I would take those odds  
11 anytime. But I am very concerned. My own family  
12 lives in this county and I will promise you that I  
13 would never support anything that I did not think was  
14 safe.

15 And it has been proven to me to be so at  
16 this point. Again I thank you for being here this  
17 evening. I thank the NRC for all that they've done to  
18 investigate this, and for LES. Thank you very much.

19 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you for coming to  
20 speak with us.

21 SENATOR LEAVELL: Thank you.

22 CHAIR BOLLWERK: The next speaker, Senator -  
23 - State Senator Gay Kernan.

24 SENATOR KERNAN: Thank you Mr. Chairman and  
25 members of the Board. I'm State Senator Gay Kernan.

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1 I've been a resident of Lea County for over 39 years  
2 and I want to welcome you, the Licensing Board, to Lea  
3 County so that you can listen to our community members  
4 talk about their support for this project.

5 It's been an exciting three years as we have  
6 worked together to reach this crucial point in the  
7 licencing process. We appreciate the detail with  
8 which the NRC has addressed the issues of safety and  
9 environmental impact.

10 They have confirmed in their reports that  
11 the NEF will be a safe facility and that there will be  
12 no significant environmental impact on this region.  
13 But one impact that can't be judged by the NRC is the  
14 impact that this project has had in bringing the  
15 people of Lea County together to reach a common goal  
16 of historic proportions.

17 We've worked together as State legislators,  
18 as city and county commissioners, as community leaders  
19 and as citizens of this county. And we care about the  
20 future of Lea County.

21 We welcome the economic development that  
22 will occur. We welcome the opportunity to partner  
23 with the National Enrichment Facility. And we -- all  
24 Lea County should be proud of our participation in  
25 providing an energy source for our country that will

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1 bring economic security and energy stability to this  
2 nation for many years to come. Thank you.

3 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you for coming this  
4 evening. The next speaker would be representative Don  
5 Bratton. I think I mispronounced that one too. I  
6 will eventually.

7 MR. BRATTON: Thank you. My name is State  
8 Representative Don Bratton.

9 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Bratton.

10 MR. BRATTON: And I've represented the  
11 district that you're sitting in right now for six  
12 years now. Prior to that I served on the Hobbs City  
13 Commission for eight years, and a couple years as  
14 Mayor of the City of Hobbs.

15 We appreciate the process that is in place  
16 for you to look at the technical aspects of the  
17 process that's being proposed, the safety  
18 considerations for protecting the quality of life that  
19 we enjoy in southeast New Mexico, to protect the air,  
20 to protect the groundwater, and all of those resources  
21 that we have.

22 I've spent approximately 30 years as a  
23 petroleum engineering working in onshore operations  
24 and offshore operations, and I've been around nuclear  
25 material, and logging wells, working summers for well

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1 logging companies.

2 I served in the Air Force in a tactical  
3 capacity and was involved in nuclear weapons in that  
4 capacity. One thing and one message I think that's  
5 always clear is there's a safe way to do things.

6 And I think we have a mechanism in place to  
7 evaluate all the ramifications of the things that we  
8 do and the potential impact. But it can't be  
9 understated the positive impact that this project is  
10 going to have to southeast New Mexico and the jobs  
11 that it's going to create.

12 We in this area have grown accustomed to the  
13 ups and downs of oil and gas pricing and the  
14 prosperity that brings when the market's up like it is  
15 now.

16 But we also have seen the downside when the  
17 prices are down. And we look at this project as  
18 another mechanism to create meaningful worthwhile jobs  
19 for southeastern New Mexico to help fill those gaps or  
20 jobs for our young people in New Mexico.

21 We don't like to out source our talent and  
22 send it other places because we're not creating new  
23 jobs. We appreciate your coming to Hobbs, listening  
24 to the comments that people have to make both pro and  
25 con.

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1           And we know that there's a place that's been  
2           -- a mechanism put in place by the Federal Government  
3           to look at all the critical issues. We're here to  
4           assist you and answer all the questions that you have  
5           and tell you that this is a good project.

6           We know that there are risks with any  
7           worthwhile project, but we think those risks are being  
8           looked at and taken into consideration, and this will  
9           help our nation get back to the energy security that  
10          it needs. Thank you.

11          CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you sir for coming  
12          and speaking with us. The next speaker would be Mayor  
13          Claydean Claiborne of Jal, New Mexico.

14          MS. CLAIBORNE: I'm Claydean Claiborne,  
15          Mayor of the City of Jal. And I'd like to take this  
16          opportunity to thank all of you and the NRC for  
17          presiding over all the proceedings that have been  
18          necessary for the licensing of a National Enrichment  
19          Facility and assuring us that the facility will be a  
20          safe and valuable member of our community.

21          It is our hope that the proposed license  
22          will be issued very soon. I too live 25 miles  
23          approximately from where the facility is and the only  
24          complaint I have is it's not in our community.

25          Many of us have had the opportunity to see

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1 the operation of a facility such as the one that will  
2 be built in the area. And after having had the  
3 opportunity to view the facility, speak with  
4 employees, nearby residents, and community leaders I  
5 was able to come home and say to the people in our  
6 area we want this.

7 It will be good for our economy and it will  
8 be good for us. LES has been very open and honest  
9 about the nature of their operation, and they've  
10 worked to keep the public informed as to each step of  
11 the process.

12 LES has been committed to meeting or  
13 exceeding the standards for safety in the areas of  
14 radiation protection, nuclear criticality, chemical  
15 process, and fire.

16 Our community also supports the proposed LES  
17 disposal path and appreciates their continued  
18 diligence in ensuring all aspects. Thank you LES for  
19 your dedication to our well being and your willingness  
20 to be a positive addition to Lea County.

21 And once again I say to you the citizens of  
22 Jal are glad that this is happening and the only thing  
23 we have to say is make it as soon as possible. Thank  
24 you.

25 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you for coming and

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1 addressing us this evening. The next speaker will be  
2 Mayor Bud Zap of Andrews, Texas.

3 MR. ZAP: I appreciate being called Bud but  
4 it's Bob, thank you. No that's not your mistake, it's  
5 -- Bud is our Sheriff.

6 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Okay. I have it written in  
7 at least three different spots, but I apologize.

8 MR. ZAP: That's alright.

9 CHAIR BOLLWERK: That's fine. I'm really  
10 racking them up tonight.

11 MR. ZAP: Coming from Andrews we're actually  
12 in a different state but the first city to the east of  
13 the site and very supportive of what is going on. WCS  
14 was in Andrews and it was our lot in life to work with  
15 that and to support it.

16 And before we did that we did a lot of  
17 studying. We traveled a lot, asked a lot of  
18 questions, and answered every question that the  
19 citizens had.

20 Through this process there was a confidence  
21 and a hopefulness on the part of Andrews toward what  
22 is being done here. And the only thing I can say  
23 about LES is that they've even gone further than  
24 anyone else and allayed any questions or fears we had,  
25 assuring us that not only will there be information

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1 coming but that there is good science and there is  
2 safety.

3 And this is all we ask. But out of the  
4 process of doing this we got to know the people of  
5 Eunice and Hobbs and realize we have more in common  
6 with them than anyone else in Texas.

7 So across the border there is a handshake  
8 and a love that's growing, and we hope to see this as  
9 just a beginning, not an end. Thank you.

10 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you for coming this  
11 evening. The next speaker will be County Commissioner  
12 Gary Schubert.

13 MR. SCHUBERT: Good evening. Members of the  
14 Board I'd like to thank you for hearing us speak  
15 today. I want to say to you that I'm almost a 30 year  
16 resident of Hobbs.

17 I chose to live here. I was not raised here  
18 but I've chosen to raise my four children here, bring  
19 them through school, and this is our home and we  
20 intend to stay.

21 I want to say that when the idea of LES came  
22 forth three years ago there was a lot of enthusiasm  
23 about the possible economic development, but as soon  
24 as that aura wore off the -- it came to the knowledge  
25 of the County Commission that we had a responsibility.

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1                   And it's not much different than yours. We  
2 had to be assured for our citizens that this project  
3 is safe and that the operator of this project was  
4 responsible and trustworthy.

5                   So we went about doing that. And we believe  
6 that LES has answered all those concerns. They've  
7 been forthright and honest, and in my opinion they've  
8 proven that they are committed.

9                   They've already become a good corporate  
10 citizen and they're committed to continuing that  
11 relationship here. Chairman Teague and myself were  
12 fortunate to go to Albuquerque and sign the biggest  
13 note that I've ever seen, almost two billion dollars  
14 for the revenue bonds for this project.

15                   And we were quite apprehensive of that. We  
16 took our responsibility seriously, but we were proud  
17 to put our names on that document. And we feel that  
18 this is a great project.

19                   We look forward to the continuing  
20 relationship with LES and we appreciate your  
21 consideration. Thank you.

22                   CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you for coming this  
23 evening. The next speaker is County Commissioner  
24 Randy McCormick.

25                   MR. MCCORMICK: Thank you all for being here

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1 today. I appreciate the NRC for looking over these  
2 proceedings and making sure everything's done properly  
3 and listened to everyone's concerns.

4 I am the County Commissioner from northern  
5 Lea County. And as the Mayor from Jal said, the only  
6 thing that bothers me the most is it's not in my  
7 district.

8 I am happy for Eunice and happy for Lea  
9 County that we're able to persuade LES to come to Lea  
10 County and to build this facility. And I think it's  
11 going to be a great facility for the county and for  
12 the economic development. And thank you all for being  
13 here.

14 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you for coming  
15 tonight. The next speaker would be Darrold  
16 Stephenson, County Commissioner.

17 MR. STEPHENSON: I won't go through the  
18 procedure of echoing what everyone has said. I just  
19 have a few power points here that I'd like to point  
20 out.

21 And I did go to Almelo. I am for NEF and I  
22 am nervous. So bear with me, sir.

23 CHAIR BOLLWERK: None of these gentlemen has  
24 ever bitten me so I think you're all right.

25 MR. STEPHENSON: And I can't speak so I'm

1 here to prove it, okay. All right. Nuclear energy  
2 produces 72 percent of all the emission free  
3 electricity in the United States.

4 Another point, the last time I came before  
5 the NRC Board there were 21 power plants being built  
6 in the world at that time. Today there are over 40.  
7 Six are asking for operations license but only two  
8 will be issued, license in the United States this  
9 year.

10 That's the way I understand it from  
11 publications. Okay, our natural resources are slowly  
12 depleting. We have used at least 60 percent of this  
13 at this time.

14 As for our wind farms they're being  
15 challenged in court because they are killing birds of  
16 prey at a rapid rate and causing land animals to  
17 migrate to other areas when possible.

18 Gentlemen, I'd like for you to help this  
19 organization so we can help our nation to be more  
20 competitive. Thank you.

21 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you, sir, for coming.  
22 The next speaker would be County Commissioner Hector  
23 Ramirez. No? All right, how about County  
24 Commissioner Harry Teague?

25 MR. TEAGUE: Hello, I'm Harry Teague and I'm

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1 Chairman of the Lea County Commission. I'd like to  
2 welcome you to Lea County. For those of you who have  
3 not been here before and for those of you that have  
4 been before we want you to know that we consider it an  
5 honor and a privilege to have you here with us.

6 And to the Staff we'd like to give a special  
7 thank you because we know that it's a lot of problem  
8 to load up everything that you need and haul it 2000  
9 miles to have a hearing and not miss anything.

10 You know, if nothing else comes out of all  
11 of this I've made a lot of new friends, met a lot of  
12 people with LES and the NRC and I've got to know my  
13 neighbors from Andrews and Carlsbad better, so it's  
14 going to be positive either way.

15 You know, anything I say after all these  
16 other people have spoke tonight and yesterday would  
17 just be redundant, but I'll try to say something  
18 different anyway because as I said at the previous  
19 meeting I may not be a good speaker but I like to hear  
20 myself speak.

21 Tonight I will refer to some of the other  
22 meetings where I spoke, and I'm not sure if they were  
23 NRC or Atomic Safety and Licensing Board or just for  
24 our legislators utilities or to convince Urenco to  
25 make an almost two billion dollar investment in Lea

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1 County.

2 But you know, one of the things that I said  
3 at a meeting a couple of years ago is I said I want  
4 you here and I want good jobs available in Lea County  
5 so that my children do not have to go to Phoenix or  
6 Dallas to get a job.

7 I want my grandchildren close enough I can  
8 see them grow up. Life is simple and pleasant.  
9 That's all we want in Lea County is simple and  
10 pleasant things, quality of life, and friends and  
11 familiar to enjoy it with.

12 LES and the jobs that they bring to Lea  
13 County help us attain those goals. The large number  
14 of local people here at this meeting tonight are  
15 concurring with my statement.

16 Let us always be in support of our county  
17 and the communities in it. Let's be loud and constant  
18 in our support of our county and the jobs LES bring to  
19 our county.

20 That was two years ago. The support's not  
21 left, it's still here. I haven't changed my mind. In  
22 a previous speech I said that I felt very comfortable  
23 with the people in the process that the Government had  
24 in place to evaluate the safety of the project.

25 And a couple of years ago I said that the

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1 NRC and the Atomic Safety Licensing Board is here to  
2 evaluate the site for safety and environmental impact.  
3 They are well qualified to do this and we are  
4 fortunate enough to have these people doing this for  
5 us.

6 We will trust them to present fair and  
7 honest answers to these questions. If everyone would  
8 leave them alone they will come up with the correct  
9 answer in short time, but people will try to help  
10 them.

11 Some of the information given to them by  
12 groups that do not want the plant built will be  
13 incorrect and it will be incorrect because those  
14 people do not have to deal with the truth as LES does.

15 I still believe that. I think there was  
16 some handouts here tonight that showed that that's not  
17 changed any either. In a previous meeting I told you  
18 who I was and a little bit about myself.

19 I own a couple of businesses in Lea County  
20 and I'm an employer of 100 pl. That not has grown to  
21 130. I said that I was a grandfather of four and  
22 that's not five.

23 I said I was a father of two and a husband  
24 of one and thank God that hasn't changed. But as you  
25 can see, 20 percent increase in grand-kids, a 30

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1 percent increase in employees, and I personally don't  
2 need LES.

3 I don't need enriched uranium, but my county  
4 does. My county needs LES and my county needs nuclear  
5 energy. My state does. They need the LES. They need  
6 nuclear energy.

7 My country needs LES and needs nuclear  
8 energy, and my world needs LES and nuclear energy.  
9 And I'd like to go back to one other thing I said at  
10 a meeting on March the 6<sup>th</sup>, 2000 -- or March the 4<sup>th</sup>,  
11 2004, and for all of those people who are opposed to  
12 this project if you're not from Lea County go away and  
13 leave us alone.

14 For those of you who are from Lea County,  
15 when the permitting process is finished and your  
16 questions are answered and your fears are put to rest,  
17 lay down your signs and give your support to your  
18 friends.

19 Be united with the majority of Lea County in  
20 welcoming LES and progress to Lea County. Once again,  
21 thank you for your time and effort. It's been fun  
22 making friends with a lot of people that are here.  
23 Thank you.

24 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you, sir. I think at  
25 this point that concludes the electives -- excuse me,

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1 representatives that were identified to us. We'd like  
2 to then move to the preregistered speakers. The first  
3 speaker would be Rose Gardner.

4 MS. GARDNER: It's kind of tough to follow  
5 that speech isn't it? Thank you committee members.  
6 An agreement was reached between the State of New  
7 Mexico and LES for temporary storage of the depleted  
8 uranium waste.

9 It is unreasonable that the community of  
10 Eunice, which is in close proximity to the plant and  
11 waste disposal site be expected to live with and be  
12 exposed to the anticipated radioactive and chemical  
13 hazards associated with uranium hexafluoride.  
14 Furthermore it is a concern that the final disposition  
15 of the depleted waste has not been determined. The  
16 final Environmental Impact Report and the 40 year  
17 water study for Lea County found the future regional  
18 demands for water could deplete Lea County's current  
19 water supply.

20 Thus conservation planning should be a  
21 priority in future updating of our water supply  
22 systems at tax payer expense to accommodate the  
23 enrichment plant does not make sense.

24 The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's refusal  
25 to consider potential terrorist attacks on the

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1 enrichment plant or cluster industries in the area is  
2 indicative that not all safety and security issues  
3 have been adequately addressed.

4 Information from the 9-11 report indicates  
5 that nuclear facilities were originally targeted by  
6 the terrorists. It's reasonable to assume that they  
7 will be targeted again.

8 The proposed uranium enrichment plant is not  
9 a stand alone facility as we have been lead to  
10 believe. The already expanding waste control  
11 specialist nuclear waste site dump, and the proposed  
12 AREVA conversion facility, and now the VHTTR test  
13 reactor are indicative of the growing interest in  
14 making Eunice area a nuclear corridor.

15 The cumulative impacts from all these types  
16 of industries have not been sufficiently addressed by  
17 the NRC. Interestingly enough, the uranium enrichment  
18 plant and test reactor both require petroleum products  
19 in order to function.

20 How does this make us energy independent and  
21 less dependent on foreign sources and fossil fuels?  
22 Alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, and  
23 other clean sustainable energies should be researched  
24 and explored as viable industries in this area of New  
25 Mexico.

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1           Our weather conditions are perfect for wind  
2           and solar, and their value has been clearly shown in  
3           other places, although there has been nothing at all  
4           from the economic development entities on these two  
5           energies.

6           I'm from Eunice, born and raised there 48  
7           years ago. I'm not going anywhere. Thank you.

8           CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you for taking the  
9           time and coming to talk with us this evening. At this  
10          point, we raised this yesterday with LES and again I  
11          have not raised anything in terms of a problem or  
12          anything pejorative, but the balance of the  
13          preregistered speakers basically came off a list that  
14          you all provided us.

15          And again I'd as you perhaps to provide us  
16          an explanation as to how that list was put together.

17          MR. COHEN: Mr. Chairman and members of the  
18          Board, my name is Marshall Cohen, I work for LES. Our  
19          company has a very extensive program of communication  
20          on the various aspects, events regarding the proposed  
21          facility.

22          And as part of that communications program  
23          we regularly inform the communities that are in this  
24          area about events such as the Board coming here, the  
25          opportunity for the public to speak, and offered to

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1 help the members of the public make sure that they're  
2 able to submit that request to the Board.

3 And so doing we put a list together that we  
4 provide to your Staff prior to tonight's and  
5 yesterday's event.

6 CHAIR BOLLWERK: All right, thank you very  
7 much.

8 MR. COHEN: You're welcome, thank you.

9 CHAIR BOLLWERK: All right, the next speaker  
10 would be Oscar Gonzales and then Lisa Hardison, and  
11 then Johnny Cope.

12 MR. GONZALES: Hello. My name is Oscar  
13 Gonzales, just a concerned citizen born and raised in  
14 Hobbs. I want to thank the NRC licensing Board for  
15 giving me this opportunity to speak here tonight.

16 I also want to thank the Board for presiding  
17 over this process for the National Enrichment  
18 Facility. I am confident that you will make sure that  
19 the NEF will be a safe member of Lea County,  
20 southeastern New Mexico, and west Texas.

21 I was fortunate to be invited to go to  
22 Almelo and tour the Urenco facility in late November  
23 2005. At first I didn't want to go because I believe  
24 the LES people were being honest and telling us the  
25 truth about everything.

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1 Well guess what, they were. After talking  
2 to some friends that had been on this trip I decided  
3 to go to Almelo. The citizens of Almelo had nothing  
4 but good things to say about Urenco.

5 As far as any health concerns I had with a  
6 facility being built close by, there were none after  
7 we saw kinds from around 4 or 5 to elderly people,  
8 some had to be at least 60 to 80 years old, riding  
9 bikes everywhere with ease when it was 30 degrees  
10 outside.

11 The plant itself was far -- was safe safety  
12 far as I could tell. We were probably about ten feet  
13 away from a canister of uranium that was going do be  
14 enriched and I never felt in any danger.

15 They checked all of us before we left the  
16 area and none of us had any radiation detected, so  
17 that reassured me that this was a safe facility. When  
18 this plant is built, which I'm sure it will be, it  
19 will have a positive impact on the area with jobs and  
20 adding revenue to local economies.

21 And finally I believe the energy provided by  
22 the enriched uranium from the National Enrichment  
23 Facility will be part of the United States becoming  
24 energy independent. Thank you.

25 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you, sir, for coming

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1 to address us today. The next speaker would be Lisa  
2 Hardison, Johnny Cope, and then Janet Lyle. I'm  
3 sorry, after Mr. Cope, Glenn Pipes.

4 MS. HARDISON: Hello, I'm Lisa Hardison.  
5 I'm the dean of extended learning here at New Mexico  
6 Junior College, and a citizen of Lea County. I want  
7 to thank you for holding the hearings in our community  
8 and providing an opportunity for public comment.

9 I am confident that the NRC will find that  
10 LES will ensure safe enrichment processes and will be  
11 a valuable part of our community. LES has provided  
12 excellent planning and processes for the facility,  
13 which is evident in their Safety Evaluation Report,  
14 especially in the areas of radiation protection.

15 When I traveled to Almelo I was able to view  
16 some of the equipment that checked for radiation, and  
17 I feel certain that such meticulous measures will  
18 protect both the workers and the communities in our  
19 area too.

20 My travel to the Netherlands gave me greater  
21 insight into how seriously Urenco handles the process  
22 of uranium enrichment, and now that Westinghouse has  
23 sold its interest in LES to Urenco this will allow  
24 Urenco do be considered by the NRC as a full partner.

25 In addition, while visiting Almelo I was

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1 most impressed with Urenco's involvement and  
2 commitment to the community. I am positive that LES  
3 will be such -- will be just as involved in Lea  
4 County.

5 They have already provided tremendous  
6 support to our county and I'm sure they will continue  
7 to be an asset to our entire region as they provide  
8 energy resources to our nation.

9 Thank you for your time and consideration of  
10 my comments.

11 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you for coming this  
12 evening. Next would be Johnny Cope, and then actually  
13 I had it incorrect before, Laverne Chaffin and then  
14 Lee White.

15 MR. COPE: Mr. Chairman, Committee members -  
16 - excuse me. Again, thank you for being here. I am  
17 the Chairman of the New Mexico Department of  
18 Transportation, and I would just like to bring to your  
19 attention highway 234 will be the highway in front of  
20 LES facility.

21 And certainly the Department Staff has  
22 worked with LES's Staff, Rod Krich, on all the safety  
23 issues that are concerned for decel lanes, maybe a  
24 center turn lane.

25 There's a few other issues that Rod Krich

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1 and LES has some concerns of, and it might be your  
2 concerns, but I want to assure you that the Department  
3 is ready to stand by to do whatever is necessary to  
4 make highway 34 safe.

5 If there is some security issues, again we  
6 would be very responsive to the needs of that, of the  
7 LES facility. I was also one that went to Almelo, and  
8 I guess there's probably 20 people here that went to  
9 Almelo.

10 And I was one of the very first. And it  
11 felt like that it was one of my responsibilities as  
12 leader of this community to prove out the safety. And  
13 one of the things that we saw was the aerial view of  
14 the plant in Almelo 30 years ago versus today.

15 And it was amazing. 30 years ago there  
16 wasn't much around the plant. Today there's all kind  
17 of community activity surrounding it, and it -- all  
18 the people in that area were very supportive of the  
19 plant.

20 I think LES has -- it's management has truly  
21 been honest, forthright, and very commulative to Lea  
22 County. As the rebirth of nuclear energy is coming  
23 about and it looks like this is what's transpiring  
24 with all the different permit applications for new  
25 reactors, I think it's in the best interest of our

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1 nation to not import our enriched uranium, but when  
2 there's such a facility as this one is proposed I  
3 certainly hope that you consider their application and  
4 their permit.

5 And so again, thanks for your consideration.  
6 Thank you.

7 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you very much for  
8 coming this evening. The next speaker would be  
9 Laverne Chaffin, and then Lee White, and then Steve  
10 McCleery.

11 MS. CHAFFIN: I'm Laverne Chaffin and I'm a  
12 retired school teacher from Eunice. I've been a  
13 Eunice resident for 38 years. And I look forward to  
14 the NEF plant coming to Eunice, and the economy that  
15 will be brought to out town.

16 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you for coming this  
17 evening. The next speaker then would be Lee White  
18 followed by Steve McCleery, and then I believe it's  
19 Jennifer Jordan.

20 MR. WHITE: Thank you Mr. Chairman, members  
21 of the Board. I am an educator in Eunice, New Mexico.  
22 And I want to wholeheartedly concur with what everyone  
23 else has said that's spoken in support of the LES  
24 facility, because I too also had the opportunity to  
25 witness firsthand the operations there in Almelo.

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1 I must say that LES and Urenco represent the  
2 pinnacle, in my opinion, of what industry leaders  
3 should be. Selfishly though I want to support the  
4 project because of what the facility brings to our  
5 educational systems, a much needed tax base.

6 New Mexico, ranks at or near the bottom of  
7 all states in Federal educational dollars. We rank in  
8 the middle of the pack in State funded educational  
9 dollars.

10 So therefore it's becoming more imperative  
11 that each educational district in the State of New  
12 Mexico bring in a larger corporate base to help  
13 subsidize our educational systems.

14 Lea County ranks at or near the bottom on  
15 receipt of educational dollars per capita, therefore  
16 LES will help fill our needs. I also feel that LES  
17 will improve our school by corporately adjoining with  
18 each institution in support of their needs so that we  
19 as educational entities can benefit from their  
20 knowledge, support, and guidance towards improving our  
21 curriculums in order to meet the Federal mandate of  
22 leaving no child behind. Thank you.

23 CHAIR BOLLWERK: Thank you, sir, for coming  
24 and speaking with us this evening. The next speaker  
25 would be Steve McCleery and then Beth Cunningham and

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1 then Joe Hayes.

2 MR. McCLEERY: Chairman Bollwerk, Dr.  
3 Kelber, and Dr. Abramson, thank you for coming. I'm  
4 president of New Mexico Junior College. It's great to  
5 have you in Lea County, and it's equally great to have  
6 you on our campus.

7 The issues for me are issues of quality  
8 control assurance. And I will tell you that even  
9 though LES and Urenco are great corporate partners, I  
10 find them even better in regard of the quality control  
11 assurance questions that we've asked.

12 The meeting with Rob Krich and his staff,  
13 he's been extremely open. He's also been extremely  
14 helpful in providing the answers to questions that we  
15 have as we begin the training for this vital project.

16 For Mike Lynch and his staff for the  
17 technology concerns and the technology needs, it's  
18 been an incredible experience. But beyond that you  
19 understand that this plant has to have the  
20 intellectual capacity and if you will, capability of  
21 maintaining a protected technology.

22 My feeling is that they do so with a great  
23 degree of expertise. Urenco has owned and operated  
24 facility for a long period of time with that exact  
25 technology that has been very compatible.

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1           It has also been tested and tried over a  
2 number of years. It has undergone great scrutiny that  
3 quite frankly has been tested in every quality control  
4 assurance piece imaginable.

5           And I submit to you today that at least from  
6 my perspective and my litmus test, they meet that  
7 intellectual capacity.

8           I would also submit to you that the process  
9 that we've gone through, the checks and balances, and  
10 the intellectual capacity of the NRC and the Staff,  
11 and certainly the pieces that had to be put together  
12 from the licensing, if you will, application has been  
13 one of significance, has been one that has a great  
14 deal of research behind it and I think one that has  
15 undergone a great deal of scrutiny but has come to  
16 surface, in my opinion, with a great deal of  
17 integrity.

18           I urge you to license that application. I  
19 think it is a good license. I also submit to you that  
20 the partners in this projects will not, cannot walk  
21 away from a 1.4 billion dollar investment without  
22 having every piece, if you will, completed. Thank you  
23 very much.

24           ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: And sir, thank  
25 you again for making the facility available for this.

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1 We very much appreciate it. The next speaker would be  
2 Bethe Cunningham, then Joe Hayes and then Pat Wise.

3 MS. CUNNINGHAM: Good evening, my name is  
4 Bethe Cunningham. And, as an economic development  
5 corporation of Lea County's Executive Director, it's  
6 an honor for me to be here in Lea County at the  
7 beginning of something as revolutionary and as  
8 exciting as today is.

9 I want to tell you a little something about  
10 Lea County. The people here are the absolute most  
11 intelligent, strong-willed, exciting people you'll  
12 ever meet in your life.

13 And we know a good thing when we see it.  
14 And we know a bad thing when we see it. And we'll  
15 send them packing down the road. And we really  
16 welcome this projects in Lea County.

17 We look forward to the National Enrichment  
18 Facility. And we look forward to seeing the positive  
19 changes that come in their industry as well as the  
20 positive changes that are going to come to Lea County.

21 We're confident that the NRC Licensing Bard  
22 will find that the NEF will be a safe and valuable  
23 member of Lea County. And we thank you for presiding  
24 over these proceedings here today.

25 I'm glad that you found the building all

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1 right. I helped you. I don't know if you guys  
2 remember yesterday, we had to find the building  
3 together.

4 But welcome, and we want you to know that we  
5 are so happy that you're here. And I hope you have  
6 some time to enjoy Lea Count you while you're here.  
7 And thank you so very much.

8 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you for  
9 coming to speak with us this evening. The next  
10 speaker would be Joe Hayes, and then Pate Wise, and  
11 then Sam Cobb. Joe Hayes?

12 (No verbal response.)

13 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: All right, then  
14 Pat Wise.

15 MR. WISE: Ladies and gentlemen, members of  
16 the Commission, and Judges, good evening. My name is  
17 Pat Wise. I'm the City Manager of the city of  
18 Levington, a community of approximately 10,000 people  
19 about 14 miles north of here.

20 I want to first thank the members of the  
21 Committee and your staffs for the time you have  
22 invested in this application process. I know it's  
23 been a long and arduous task.

24 And I solute your dedication to an honest  
25 and frank discussion of the issues. I want to also

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1 thank you for the opportunity afforded this evening to  
2 those of us here who are here to -- who care to  
3 approach you in support of or against this projects.

4 I must tell you, when the projects was first  
5 proposed, I was somewhat skeptical and questioned the  
6 economic impact on the area as well as on our water  
7 table.

8 I set about to investigate the facts,  
9 careful to separate fact from fiction and reality from  
10 hysteria. I'm convinced that you have done the same.  
11 And I appreciate the open and frank manner in which  
12 you have conducted your investigation.

13 We must collectively look at the facts.  
14 Environmental impact, aside from the socio-economic  
15 impact, I do not feel we should promote an application  
16 without assurances that a clear understanding of  
17 negligible impact on the environment.

18 So, let's look at that as the first and most  
19 important hurdle. I'm convinced it's been cleared.  
20 On the workers and the public, your safety evaluation  
21 report states that the proposed monitoring processes  
22 will be more than adequate to assure work and public  
23 safety.

24 On the environment, your economic -- your  
25 Environmental Impact Statement reports only minimal

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1 impact on the environment. Let's then look at the  
2 current state of the energy dependence of the United  
3 States on an increasingly hostile market place.

4 As the leader of the free world, we must  
5 take steps to assure a diversification and more  
6 reliable supply of energy for our ever-increasing  
7 needs.

8 The facility would be a first step in that  
9 direction. And hopefully many more will follow.  
10 After all, you have been operating in other parts of  
11 the world safely and without incident for decades.

12 It is far passed the time when we should  
13 begin enriching our own fuel in this country as well.  
14 On the local economy, this projects will have enormous  
15 positive implication from the economic condition of  
16 this entire area.

17 This is high paying, stable employment and  
18 would lend heavily to the diversification of our  
19 economic base that we have all sought for so very  
20 long.

21 It is indeed an opportunity that comes along  
22 very seldom. In conclusion, everything about this  
23 projects is a win-win for the entire area. On behalf  
24 of the Office of the Mayor, who was ill and unable to  
25 be here this evening, as well as the entire City

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1 Commission of the City of Levington, and my office, we  
2 urge your approval of this permit and the award of the  
3 permit to Louisiana Energy Services Corporation. Thank  
4 you for your consideration.

5 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you for  
6 coming to speak with us this evening. The next  
7 speaker would be Sam Cobb and then Paul Campbell, and  
8 then Justin McGeath if I'm pronouncing that correctly.

9 MR. COBB: Good evening, Mr. Chairman,  
10 members of the Committee. I am a food processor here  
11 in Hobbs, New Mexico, quite different from many of my  
12 peers.

13 I'm not in the oil and gas industry. And  
14 I'll be honest with you tonight. I have some concerns  
15 about this. I'm concerned that you don't fully know  
16 how well informed we are as a public, how much LES has  
17 done to inform us and made us an informed public.

18 We're an informed public. We know about the  
19 process. We understand the technology, we believe it  
20 to be sound. I'm concerned that you don't understand  
21 us as the spirit of a community.

22 We're a community that understands the role  
23 of the energy and the energy industry. And we want to  
24 be part of a global solution to our country and this  
25 world's energy problems.

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1           That is the spirit of our community. I'm  
2 concerned that you will go back to your homes and have  
3 discussions with your peers, and you'll have any hint  
4 of a doubt that we want this projects, we understand  
5 it, we believe it to be a great thing for our country  
6 and our community.

7           And I think all the people here tonight, we  
8 hope we've showed you that. And that's my greatest  
9 concern, that you will not return with the greatest  
10 confidence that you have made the right decision for  
11 this community and this country for many years to  
12 come. Thank you.

13           ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you for  
14 addressing us this evening. Paul Campbell, then  
15 Justin McGeath and then I think we'll take a break.

16           MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
17 members of the Board. My name is Paul Campbell. And  
18 I come this evening really wearing three different  
19 hats.

20           My first is that of the President of the  
21 Board of Directors of the Economic Development  
22 Corporation of Lea County, big name. But we are  
23 really appreciate of the opportunity that this -- the  
24 NEF facility is going to bring to our community as far  
25 as economic development.

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1 I recall back two to three years ago when  
2 this was first being discussed and the support, and  
3 the overwhelming support of our board and our  
4 membership to this projects.

5 And that support has only grown. It's grown  
6 tremendously since that time. There has not been any  
7 falling away from that support, only continued growth  
8 in that support.

9 So, we're excited about that, we're excited  
10 about the opportunities for economic development  
11 within Lea County and west Texas. The second hat I  
12 wear is that of a business owner here in southeastern  
13 New Mexico and west Texas with eight different  
14 locations.

15 And we understand the importance of growing  
16 our economy and diversifying it, and being heavily  
17 relied upon in the oil and gas industry, which has  
18 really been beneficial to so many of us in this area.

19 It really makes us feel much better about  
20 the future of our area when we can diversify it with  
21 good, sound businesses that are going to be here for  
22 a long time to come that provide good quality jobs.

23 But, my third hat, and the most important  
24 hat is that of a father of three children. And I  
25 don't know that I'll catch Harry Teague, but I just

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1 found out that we're going to become grandparents for  
2 the first time.

3 And the opportunity for my children and my  
4 grandchildren to be here and live in this area -- and  
5 I can guarantee you, if I had any questions about the  
6 safety of this facility, I'd be the first one up here  
7 saying that I don't want it in this area.

8 I feel very, very confident with your  
9 oversight and the oversight of the NRC. And, what my  
10 colleagues and friends have seen with their visits to  
11 the Almelo facility, with the honesty and integrity  
12 that the LES has brought to the table, I have every  
13 confidence.

14 And I feel very, very confident and very  
15 comfortable in telling my children to come back and  
16 live in Lea County. And it's a good, safe place to  
17 live and a great place to raise your family. So, with  
18 that, I appreciate your time.

19 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you for  
20 coming and speaking with us. Mr. McGeath? You can  
21 correct me. I expect I've pronounced that about three  
22 different ways now.

23 MR. McGEATH: Good evening. It's Justin  
24 McGeath, close. Thank you very much. My name is  
25 Justin McGeath. I'm the Executive Director of the

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1 Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce.

2 And, on behalf of our 400 plus members in  
3 and around Carlsbad, I'm here to speak on behalf of  
4 those members in support of the enrichment facility  
5 and in support of LES

6 We feel that LES will operate in a safe and  
7 effective manner. The economic impact undoubtedly  
8 will be tremendous for the Hobbs-Eunice area. And we  
9 also feel it will have quite an impact on all of  
10 southeastern New Mexico.

11 So again, on behalf of the Carlsbad Chamber  
12 of Commerce, we support the effort.

13 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you for  
14 coming this evening. All right. At this point we've  
15 going about an hour. Why don't we take a five minute  
16 break and let everyone stretch their legs?

17 I would remind you again, if you wish to  
18 speak and did not pre-register, there is a sign up  
19 list that you would need to register on. Thank you  
20 everyone, we'll be back in about five minutes.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went  
22 off the record at 8:07 p.m. and went back on  
23 the record at 8:17 p.m.)

24 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: All right, we  
25 need everyone to come to order so we can get started.

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1 If everybody could come in and have a seat, and I  
2 would remind you again if for some reason you turned  
3 on your cell phone during the break, if you would,  
4 we'd really appreciate it if you could turn it off  
5 again.

6 Not only does the ringing sometimes bother  
7 folks, but it's actually interfering with some of the  
8 mikes in here from time to time. So again, we want to  
9 make sure that everybody gets an opportunity to be  
10 heard.

11 All right. The next three speakers would be  
12 Debra Hicks, Daniel Johncox and Kevin Burnham. Debra  
13 Hicks?

14 PARTICIPANT: She's out in the hall.

15 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Out in the  
16 hall? Somebody want to peak their head out and say  
17 the time is here? I hate to drop her to the end of  
18 the list. Wouldn't want to do that to her.

19 JUDGE ABRAMSON: Speak now or forever hold  
20 your peace somebody once said.

21 MS. HICKS: I apologize.

22 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: No problem.

23 MS. HICKS: My name is Debra Hicks. And I  
24 too was born and raised in Lea County. I returned  
25 here after many years in school as a professional

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1 engineer.

2 I wear many hats in this community, one of  
3 which is the Chair of the Board of the Trustees for  
4 the College of the Southwest. And another is also the  
5 Vice President of our economic development corporation  
6 of Lea County.

7 As a member of the professional engineering  
8 society I have a duty to look into and assure our  
9 community of the welfare and safety of the types of  
10 industries that come into this community.

11 I was given the opportunity to attend  
12 Almelo. And through that I concur with the previous  
13 comments that have been made tonight regarding the  
14 conditions that surround the plant and the community  
15 of Almelo.

16 I'm a firm supporter of the furtherance of  
17 safe and environmentally sound alternative energy  
18 sources. I appreciate the time and the effort that  
19 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Atomic Safety  
20 and Licensing Board, and the National Enrichment  
21 Facility.

22 I appreciate your commitment to this process  
23 and to the safety and welfare of our community. And  
24 I feel as we move forward on this projects it will be  
25 a benefit to all those that reside in Lea County, as

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1 well as in the region that is soon to become an energy  
2 corridor. Thank you for your time.

3 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you for  
4 coming this evening. The next speaker would be Daniel  
5 Johncox and Kevin Burnham and then Manuel Molina.

6 MR. JOHNCOX: Mr. Chairman, committee  
7 members, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Daniel  
8 Johncox. I'm with Young's Manufactured Homes in  
9 Hobbs.

10 We're a family owned and operated business  
11 since 1958. We got the very first license ever issued  
12 in the state of New Mexico with license number one.  
13 I think uranium enrichment has been proven to be a  
14 safe industry.

15 We've sent our citizens to Europe to view  
16 one of the facilities. And they've come back with two  
17 thumbs up. I think our communities embrace the  
18 economic opportunities that LES brings to Lea County.

19 Lea County has been one of the number one  
20 producers of natural gas in the United States of  
21 America. Lea County has been one of the number one  
22 producers of oil in the United States of America.

23 And I think it would only be fitting that  
24 Lea County be the number one producer of nuclear fuel  
25 in America. Thank you, gentlemen.

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1 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you, sir,  
2 for coming and speaking with us this evening. The  
3 next speaker would be Kevin Burnham, then Manuel  
4 Molina, and then Cliff Burch.

5 MR. BURNHAM: Good evening. I am the Chief  
6 of Police from Eunice, New Mexico. And this past fall  
7 I had the opportunity to travel to the Netherlands to  
8 tour the plant in Almelo not only as an interested  
9 citizen, but as the Chief.

10 I was first impressed with their facility  
11 and their operations, second I was also impressed with  
12 their security there. It's a no nonsense situation.  
13 And, over the years they have changed their security  
14 measures as the needs allowed.

15 When they first started they were dog teams  
16 within the fences. And, as times changed and needs  
17 changed, they did away with the dog teams and used  
18 more passive security measures.

19 The Urenco personnel, as well as the LES  
20 personnel assured me that they will work hand in hand,  
21 as well as their security personnel with all law  
22 enforcement and public safety agencies within Lea  
23 County.

24 For your information, all of the  
25 municipalities within Lea County have entered into a

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1 new mutual aid agreement in regards to all our police  
2 agencies.

3 Approximately two weeks ago there was a  
4 situation here in Hobbs that involved a SWAT team  
5 standoff. And there were personnel and equipment from  
6 as far away as Las Cruces, the state police SWAT,  
7 Hobbs SWAT, Sheriff Department SWAT teams, Midland  
8 Police Department, Hector County Sheriff Department  
9 provided personnel and materials out of Odessa.

10 So, I assure you that this agreement does  
11 work. And, if there ever is a need, there will be a  
12 timely and professional response to what is needed.  
13 That's not only on behalf of law enforcement, but also  
14 on behalf of the fire agencies within our county and  
15 our area.

16 As just a citizen of Lea County, I too, like  
17 Mr. Cobb, grew up in Lea County. And I, like Harry  
18 Teague, and my grandfather, but I'm not one of those  
19 that can send mine home.

20 Mine live with me in Eunice. I have a  
21 little girl in school in Eunice. And we plan on being  
22 in Eunice a long time. I think this is a wonderful  
23 opportunity for Lea County and New Mexico. And I  
24 thank you for your time.

25 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you for

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1 coming and addressing us this evening. The next  
2 speaker would be Manuel Molina, the Cliff Burch, and  
3 then Janice Spence. Mr. Molina? No? All right.  
4 Cliff Burch?

5 MR. BURCH: Good evening. My name is Cliff  
6 Burch and I am the Superintendent of the Hobbs  
7 schools. I've ben involved in education and a  
8 resident of Hobbs for the last 23 years.

9 I have been involved with numerous changes,  
10 many progressive, and some not during this time.  
11 However, this is an exciting day and exciting time for  
12 Lea County.

13 We have waited a long two to three years for  
14 this projects to become a reality. And we are finally  
15 on the verge of breaking ground. As superintendent I  
16 have a responsibility to ensure that our students can  
17 attend school in a safe and healthy environment.

18 Over the last two years I have attended  
19 meetings, talked to the experts, listened to those who  
20 went to visit the other facility -- and if another  
21 trip is planned, let me know -- talked to our  
22 legislatures, and have no other conclusion to come to,  
23 except that the National Enrichment Facility is not a  
24 safety risk to our communities.

25 I have done my homework and believe the

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1 project is safe. I believe the Nuclear Regulatory  
2 Commission has done a great job in presiding over the  
3 licensing of the NEF.

4 And I'm very appreciative of the way LES has  
5 kept the public informed and educated as this project  
6 has unfolded. I also appreciate the media for their  
7 role in informing the public.

8 I am very confident NEF will use the world's  
9 most advanced technology to ensure that everything we  
10 are being told is what will happen when it comes to  
11 the safety in our communities.

12 I am an eye and an ear for the public, and  
13 have not had any concerns brought to my attention.  
14 Those who do talk are excited of the possibilities  
15 this plant can do for our schools.

16 New businesses mean more families. More  
17 families mean more students. And more students  
18 results in more money for our district to operate.  
19 Not only the day-to-day operations, but enhancing the  
20 quality of education our students receive through  
21 additional staff and programs that the new money can  
22 generate.

23 In closing, let me say thanks to LES for  
24 creating opportunities for our young people to stay in  
25 Lea County. And we as a school district look forward

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1 to a working relationship that will benefit both our  
2 students and community. Thank you.

3 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you for  
4 coming and speaking with us this evening. The next  
5 speaker would be Janice Spence and then Kirsten  
6 Carlson, and then Ken Britt.

7 MS. SPENCE: Good evening. I am Janice  
8 Spence. And I am an automobile dealership owner. And  
9 I'm very privileged to be here tonight. And thank you  
10 for coming.

11 I would like to give you some feelings about  
12 how I feel about NEF. We are so excited about the  
13 chance of them getting to be here and mainly because  
14 of the positive effect it's going to have on our  
15 community, my business as well as other businesses in  
16 town and thinking about just the economic impact that  
17 it's going to have.

18 I feel that Lea County is very privileged in  
19 being part of this undertaking. And I have felt like  
20 that we have been informed almost daily about what's  
21 going on.

22 It has been very public. We have all the  
23 knowledge I felt that we needed to feel confident in  
24 how we feel about NEF. I'm excited about it. And I  
25 look forward to having this great relationship in our

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1 county. Thank you very much.

2 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you for  
3 coming this evening. The next speaker would be  
4 Kirsten Carlson followed by Ken Britt and then Staci  
5 Burnett. Ms. Carlson? No? Mr. Britt? How about  
6 Staci Burnett?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: All right, how  
9 about then Roxanne Lara?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: No? All right.  
12 How about Shara Huckins?

13 MS. HUCKINS: Good evening, my name is  
14 Shera Huckins. And I'm a sophomore at New Mexico  
15 Junior College. In 2005 I received a scholarship from  
16 LES which has been a true contribution to my  
17 education.

18 With the assistance LES awarded me within  
19 the past four semesters, I have been able to focus on  
20 my major, which is pre-med, rather than constantly  
21 being financially burdened.

22 I would like to sincerely thank LES and the  
23 Board as well tonight for allowing me to express my  
24 gratitude, thank you.

25 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you for

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1 coming and speaking with us. The next speaker would  
2 be Chris Rounds and then Cliff Shroud and then David  
3 Gallegos -- if I'm pronouncing that correctly.

4 MR. ROUNDS: Good evening gentlemen. My  
5 name is Chris Rounds. I am the owner of CDR services,  
6 a small technology company here in Hobbs. I wanted to  
7 stand up here today and ask you a question to begin.

8 I'm wondering how many of you sitting at the  
9 table play golf. The reason why I ask is we have two  
10 physicists and a lawyer. Surely somebody here plays  
11 some golf.

12 I know this is something of a weird way to  
13 start this. But, I keep learning new interesting  
14 things about the NEF every single day. In fact, today  
15 I found out how much water they're actually going to  
16 be using at the facility once it's completed.

17 Did you know that they are going to be using  
18 less water than a local golf course? That surprised  
19 me, for a facility as large as that and being a  
20 resident of Albuquerque when they build the Intel  
21 plant to build microchips, I thought for sure there'd  
22 be some more water use there.

23 It's actually going to be less than that.  
24 As a local businessman I can also tell you that the  
25 LES is a great perk. We keep talking about the

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1 economic impact that the LES is going to have down the  
2 road.

3 Well, I can tell you the economic impact has  
4 already begun. The ripples have already begun in the  
5 pond. When I started out I was just me freelancing.  
6 I now have ten employees working for me.

7 And, since the LES came in, I've actually  
8 increased my staff by 20 percent because of the work  
9 that they have already brought to us. So, I am  
10 definitely in support of the LES, I hope, and  
11 encourage you as a Board to expedite this process as  
12 much as possible. And thank you for your time  
13 tonight.

14 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you,  
15 sir, for coming and speaking with us. The next  
16 speaker would be Cliff Shroud and then David Gallegos  
17 and then Hermilio Ojeda.

18 MR. GALLEGOS: Good evening, they told me  
19 Cliff wasn't here. I'm David Gallegos. And I am a  
20 resident of Eunice for 17 years. I want to thank you  
21 all for allowing us to come to speak to you all.

22 I have a real -- let me see how to put this.  
23 I've got two daughters, my wife, and a brand new  
24 granddaughter that live five miles from the facility.  
25 And I've got a real vested interested in safety.

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1           And I know with you guys overseeing this  
2           that this facility is going to be safe. I'm also part  
3           of the school board. We are very interested and  
4           excited with the possibilities of what the National  
5           Enrichment Facility is going to do for Eunice.

6           All in all, everything that they've given  
7           us, they've told us, they've explained to us has been  
8           up front and above honest. We've gotten more  
9           information than you could even perceive.

10           I know that they've answered questions  
11           hundreds of times, same exact question from different  
12           people. But I just wanted to definitely let you know  
13           that this community, our community, our county is  
14           looking at the diversification of the oil field.

15           We need the economic structure they're going  
16           to provide to us. And I hope you guys will consider  
17           giving them the license so they can participate with  
18           us. Thank you.

19           ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you for  
20           coming and speaking with us this evening. The next  
21           speaker would be Hermilio Ojeda and then Pat McCasland  
22           and then Gary Dill.

23           MR. OJEDA: Buenas noches. Mi nombre es  
24           Hermilio Ojeda. Gracias por estar aqui con nosotros  
25           esta noche. Yo se que vienen de muy lejos you tal vez

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1       cansados.

2               Yo tuve la oportunidad de ir a Almelo a  
3       conocer la planta. You estoy seguro de que esa planta  
4       es una planta segura para esta ciudad. Yo soy padre  
5       de familia. Tengo mi esposa, you ahora tengo una  
6       nieta, una nieta de apenas cuatro meses you la quiero  
7       mucho.

8               You ella va estar seguro en este lugar con  
9       esta planta. La ultima vez hicieron un comentario de  
10      que si se informaba el publico. Si se informa el  
11      publico.

12              LES, atravez de la radio en español, informa  
13      a el publico que habla español de los trabajaos you  
14      todo lo que sucede acerca de esta planta. Estoy  
15      seguro de que va ser muy bien.

16              Solo LES pido de que se apuren para que le  
17      de las licencias. Muchisimas gracias.

18              ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Gracias. Thank  
19      you for coming and pseaking with us. The next  
20      speaker would be Pat McCasland, and then Gary Dill,  
21      and then DeeDee Wallace.

22              MR. MCCASLAND: Thank you very much. The  
23      name is Pat McCasland.

24              ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: McCasland,  
25      thank you. Sorry.

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1 JUDGE ABRAMSON: There he goes again.

2 MR. McCASLAND: I know, I know. I told  
3 David he was very diplomatic. I live in Eunice. I  
4 was born in Eunice in 1950. I was blessed to be able  
5 to work for the state of New Mexico, DOE Oversight  
6 Bureau, hazardous and radioactive materials bureau at  
7 the WIPP site.

8 And it just so happened coincidentally, my  
9 family and I live in the residence nearest the site.  
10 And so, I think to me the most -- I guess I was really  
11 curious to know what the Safety Analysis Report would  
12 actually say.

13 And I didn't read all of it. I read pretty  
14 much what I thought was the important thing, how it  
15 was going to affect my family. And my mother and  
16 father live just down the road.

17 And I did have some questions. But Rod  
18 Krich very openly answered all those questions and  
19 provided me with the information that I saw. And, on  
20 behalf of my family, I appreciate the NRC being here.

21 And, very interested that Pat Wise, the City  
22 Manager from Covington, he focused not on what a great  
23 thing it is for our County. But he focused on things  
24 like Steve McCreary did, quality assurance and quality  
25 control, you know.

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1           How are you going to manage the hazard?  
2           And, when I looked at the Environmental Impact  
3           Statement, the Safety Analysis Report, I think the NRC  
4           has done a great job.

5           And I know when you permit the facility that  
6           it will be run in a way that will be acceptable  
7           acknowledging the hazards that are going to be out  
8           there.

9           And so, I appreciate what you all have done  
10          and the time you have taken to come to southeast New  
11          Mexico to help us grow and benefit not just here, but  
12          the entire nation.

13          So, I want to echo the support that we have  
14          for the facility. And I might add, Sam Cobb made a  
15          comment that was really profound. And I don't know  
16          whether you noticed this or not.

17          But, Carol Levelle, Senator Levelle, was  
18          sitting over here and Johnny Cope was sitting. They  
19          were right there, right close together. And it's kind  
20          of like Ying and Yang and Heckle and Jekyll, it's  
21          Republican-Democrat.

22          And, in this issue there are no political  
23          boundaries. Everybody is unified. You have Harry  
24          Teague supporting it. So --

25          JUDGE ABRAMSON: Do you want to send them to

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1 Washington?

2 (Laughter.)

3 MR. McCASLAND: Again, I fully support the  
4 facility and have all the confidence in the world  
5 that, with your oversight, the facility is going to be  
6 run in a very safe way and it will benefit everyone  
7 involved, thank you.

8 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you for  
9 coming this evening and speaking with us. The next  
10 speaker will be Gary Dill and then DeeDee Wallace and  
11 then Jerry Harper.

12 MR. DILL: Good evening, I'm Gary Dill,  
13 President of the College of the Southwest, a higher  
14 education institution in our community that confers  
15 baccalaureate and masters degrees.

16 Our faculty, staff and students are  
17 accustomed to looking at issues in a skeptical way.  
18 We encourage that. And our science faculty has  
19 explored this project very carefully and provided me  
20 with assurances of their own confidence.

21 They tell me and I am convinced that it is  
22 a result of good science. I know that the LES  
23 National Enrichment Facility management team are  
24 cooperative partners.

25 We welcome them as collaborative partners in

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1 our community. And we encourage your favorable  
2 consideration in this request.

3 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you for  
4 coming and speaking with us this evening. The next  
5 speaker would be DeeDee Wallace, then Jerry Harper,  
6 and then Lee Chaney.

7 MS. WALLACE: Hi, my name is Dee Dee  
8 Wallace. Right at two years ago I attended my first  
9 NRC forum in my new capacity as Director of Economic  
10 Development for Andrews, Texas.

11 And it was then that I first began to  
12 understand the significance of this project to our  
13 region. Since that time I have learned quite a bit  
14 about the process of enriching uranium and the  
15 complexities involved with positioning a facility of  
16 such magnitude in this region.

17 I would like to say, though, that from the  
18 very critical evaluations in both the EIS and the SER  
19 issued in June, I am impressed and encouraged with the  
20 NRC and the oversight that's been both thorough,  
21 extensive, if not exhaustive.

22 And I will say that, having grown up in the  
23 oil patch and watch that industry despoil the land  
24 with trivial oversight that has only recently upheld  
25 accountability standards, it is understandable why our

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1 vast population has no problem or issues with an  
2 industry and a company that boasts a safety record and  
3 environmental consciousness that Urenco and LES does.

4 Plus, again, with your intense and available  
5 oversight reporting from the NRC and the statement and  
6 report, it is reassuring and with the exhaustion, I  
7 believe.

8 Having addressed the environmental and  
9 safety issues, as you can imagine, what's most  
10 profound and impacting for me personally is the  
11 economic development issues.

12 What this project brings to this region, the  
13 impact on that is something you can't put a tangible  
14 value on. The enthusiasm and the energy that has been  
15 generated from a project of this scope in this region,  
16 has had far-reaching impacts that you may not even be  
17 aware of.

18 Some of the things that have been generated  
19 from this both in west Texas and in eastern New  
20 Mexico, organizations that have come together to form  
21 regional entities and to form regional collaborations  
22 and identities to tout west Texas and eastern New  
23 Mexico as the potential for being the energy epicenter  
24 of the world.

25 We just recently found out that we made the

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1 short list for the future gem project, which is the  
2 near zero emission coal gasification plant in Odessa,  
3 Texas.

4 It's been a regional collaboration that is  
5 a one billion dollar project that each state is  
6 allowed one site. And we have been designated as one  
7 of the short lists recently.

8 We also have down-hole geothermal projects  
9 that are being researched and looked at. We have many  
10 wind power research projects that are being looked at.  
11 And we have solar issues that are also being looked  
12 at.

13 We also recently signed a pre-conceptual  
14 design project three million dollars that's going to  
15 be looked at for Andrews with a collaboration with  
16 University of Texas Permian basin, General Atomics,  
17 and Thorian Power, Incorporated, which has a component  
18 of hydrogen fuel cell, which also ties in the coal  
19 gasification plant that has a hydrogen fuel cell  
20 component.

21 All of these, again, allow us to identify  
22 this region as an energy epicenter. A huge piece of  
23 this, obviously, has to be with what is going to power  
24 our base loads, which has got to be coal and nuclear,  
25 that's my understanding.

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1           So, when you bring all of these pieces  
2 together, you can see that this region really has an  
3 opportunity to utilize cross applications with  
4 technologies, with training, with curriculum, with  
5 workforce development.

6           All of the pieces all come together to make  
7 this a really unique opportunity for a region that for  
8 many, many years has dealt with decline and with the  
9 demise of the industry that's carried it for many  
10 years.

11           One other unique perspective I'd like to  
12 offer is that, on my second trip to Almelo, I took  
13 seven companies from the region to look at touring the  
14 facility as potential suppliers.

15           In my first trip I did walk around town.  
16 And I talked to the local people and talked to the  
17 Urenco employees. And that was really impressive.  
18 But one thing I did want to point out was that on my  
19 second trip I had the opportunity to meet the  
20 counterpart suppliers who actually deal with Urenco  
21 over in the Netherlands.

22           And I will tell you that I was profoundly  
23 impressed with the degree of respect that these  
24 companies had in dealing with Urenco. They took it  
25 extremely serious even though you could tell there was

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1 familiarity.

2 There was certainly a degree of respect that  
3 existed. The other significant impression was the  
4 uncompromising level of quality and high standards  
5 that were demanded and understood.

6 While some interchanges were joking and  
7 light hearted, it was apparent that anything less than  
8 the agreed high standards and quality were not  
9 acceptable.

10 LES has continually told our local companies  
11 that they are eager to work with them provided that  
12 they can meet the required level of quality, that they  
13 will be seriously considered.

14 Again, I would think that that would be  
15 something that would be impacting for you to know, is  
16 that the level of quality that has been expressed over  
17 there would continue to be something that would be,  
18 I'm sure, dealt with over here.

19 I appreciate the opportunity to come and  
20 talk to you about what's going on in the region.  
21 Thank you for being here and for your consideration.

22 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you for  
23 coming to speak with us this evening. The next  
24 speaker would be Jerry Harper and then Lee Chaney.  
25 Mr. Harper?

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1 (No verbal response.)

2 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: All right, then  
3 Mr. Chaney? Is he here?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: All right. At  
6 this point we've actually gone through the individuals  
7 that have either pre-registered or signed up this  
8 evening.

9 We're going to take about another five  
10 minute break. If there's anybody in the room or knows  
11 of anyone that wants to speak and hasn't signed up  
12 yet, this would be the time to do so.

13 We'll come back, run through the list of  
14 individuals whose names we called and didn't answer  
15 very quickly. And then, if no one else is around, we  
16 will adjourn. But we'll take about a five minute  
17 break at this point.

18 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went  
19 off the record at 8:43 p.m. and went back on  
20 the record at 8:53 p.m.)

21 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: All right.  
22 Let's being with County Commissioner Hector Ramirez.

23 MR. RAMIREZ: Good evening. Thank you for  
24 this opportunity to express my concerns and feelings.  
25 Thank you to LES for being too honest to these people

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1 and this community because they make my job a lot  
2 easier to provide all the information to be honest.

3 I had the honor to go there to Almelo, and  
4 thank God, you know. It took a lot of sleep away  
5 before. But, after that trip it was wonderful.  
6 Safety, nothing to worry about it.

7 The people over there is so friendly and so  
8 happy to have people like LES to have the services  
9 over there. So, to me it's a great honor to be here  
10 tonight and let LES know that I welcome LES to Lea  
11 County, open my arms.

12 Thank you for everything you do in this  
13 community, thank you for your time to come to Hobbs,  
14 New Mexico. This is a great community. This is going  
15 to make a lot of difference in this community.

16 I'm so excited because I have two  
17 grandchildren. They're going to see the difference in  
18 this community, thank you very much.

19 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you, sir,  
20 for coming this evening. The next speaker would be  
21 Cliff Bunsen.

22 MR. BRUNSEN: Good evening. Thank you for  
23 the opportunity. My name is Cliff Brunsen. I'm a  
24 lifelong resident of Hobbs. My family has been in the  
25 business here since the forties.

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1 I currently own an environmental consulting  
2 remediation firm. We've been involved in the oil and  
3 gas industry for a long time. I'm a current member of  
4 the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, a former  
5 member of the New Mexico Environment Improvement  
6 Board.

7 And I understand the environmental concerns  
8 that this project would have brought to people. I  
9 haven't spent a lot of time with the LES people, just  
10 a few of them.

11 But I have followed this project and feel  
12 very confident in it. I've traveled around the world  
13 and worked in lots different places, different  
14 projects.

15 And I feel like this would be a very good  
16 project for our county, our state, our communities  
17 around here, and would hope that you will rule  
18 favorably in that capacity and grant the license and  
19 let these guys go to work and bring jobs and energy  
20 security to our country. Thank you.

21 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: Thank you, sir  
22 for coming this evening. All right. At this point  
23 that is the list that I have. However, let me go  
24 through one more time some names that we originally  
25 had pre-registered and haven't heard anything that

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1 they are not going to show up.

2 Also, I should mention that if there's  
3 anyone out there in the audience at this point that  
4 still wants to speak, this would be the time to see  
5 Ms. Perch and get your name on the list.

6 Let me go through quickly. Manuel Molina,  
7 Kirsten Carlson, Ken Britt, Staci Burnett, Roxanne  
8 Lara, Cliff Shroud or Jerry Harper. Any of those  
9 individuals?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: All right,  
12 anyone else that wishes to be heard?

13 (No verbal response.)

14 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: All right.  
15 Again, if for whatever reason you do want to present  
16 your views to the Board but you would prefer not to  
17 address us this evening, you can certainly do that,  
18 and we welcome it.

19 There are some forms back in the back of the  
20 table. You can leave those with Ms. Perch or you can  
21 mail them in. There's a copy of the Federal Register  
22 Notice there that has the Board's mailing address if  
23 you prefer to use that method to communicate with us.

24 And they will be put on the record of the  
25 proceeding along with the statements that we've heard

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1 tonight, which will be transcribed. At this point do  
2 either of the Board members have anything that they  
3 want to say?

4 (No verbal response.)

5 ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE YOUNG: No? All right.  
6 On behalf of the Board I would like to thank all of  
7 the citizens of the Hobbs-Eunice area, I guess, as  
8 well as both into the Andrews, Texas area, down over  
9 into Carlsbad.

10 We've heard from a number of different  
11 individuals from the area. It sounds like there's a  
12 wide range of interest in the proceeding. We  
13 appreciate everyone that's come and spoken to us,  
14 given us their views, whether they were in support of  
15 the facility or did not.

16 We appreciate you taking the time to come  
17 and speak with us. Again, on behalf of the Board I  
18 would like to thank the New Mexico Junior college.  
19 You have been just terrific with helping us do these  
20 proceedings, and also the Hobbs Police, who have  
21 supported us over the past several times, I guess  
22 three times we've been here in Hobbs.

23 We've always felt very secure with the help  
24 of the Hobbs police. We appreciate your efforts. At  
25 this point, if we have any other speakers, and I don't

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1 see any, we stand adjourned, and thank you very much.

2 (Whereupon, at 8:57 p.m. the above-entitled  
3 matter was concluded.)  
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedings  
before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
in the matter of:

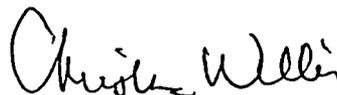
Name of Proceeding: Louisiana Energy Service, LP  
Limited Appearances Hearing

Docket Number: 70-3103-ML

ASLBP No. 04-826-01-ML

Location: Hobbs, NM

were held as herein appears, and that this is the  
original transcript thereof for the file of the United  
States Nuclear Regulatory Commission taken by me and,  
thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the  
direction of the court reporting company, and that the  
transcript is a true and accurate record of the  
foregoing proceedings.



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Christina Willis  
Official Reporter  
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