

From: LES_EIS
To: Doris Mendiola
Date: 2/18/04 4:36PM
Subject: LES Comment 3: National Enrichment Facility

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>>> "Joseph Shearer" <jfshea2@hotmail.com> 10/28/03 03:40PM >>>
Mr. Johnson,

Here are some items that I want you made aware of concerning the National Enrichment Facility. First, Lea County is already a victim of the oil industry. People in this area have a high occurrence of sinus and allergy problems, lupus, cervical cancer, etc... The gas odor is evident all around the county. The smell is disgusting. Since I have moved to Lea County, my sinuses have been giving me trouble, I am nauseous much of the time, and I get migraine headaches. I do not care if statistics do not show it--people are sick here. Check out the area of Hobbs known as Little Albuquerque--it is nasty and there are a lot of sick people there. It will be an environmental injustice if the NRC adds another toxic company to Lea County.

Also, I am a professor at a local college. Many professors and students are stating that they will move from Lea County before the NEF opens. Whether it is irrational or not, people will leave. Moreover, businesses (e.g. colleges) will have difficulty recruiting new employees. I had three job offers on the table when I accepted my current job. I guarantee you that I would not have taken this position if I would have known that LES was coming. I guarantee that others will not come here if presented with a choice.

I currently live in Eunice. I had an offer on a house when NEF announced its plans. I have taken that offer back and am currently looking into moving to Hobbs. Next step will be anywhere outside of Lea County before NEF opens. So, you need to address the negative impact that this will have on the immediate area.

I am interested in the concept of synergy. How will the increased pollutants from the factory interact with the extremely high pollutant concentration currently in Lea County?

Ever hear of a food chain? According to a farmer in Paducah, his land does not have insects and other animals on it anymore. It is a BS blanket answer to merely state that Paducah utilizes chemicals not utilized by the centrifuge process. I do not know of any scientific study that precisely pinpoints the causes of all of the sicknesses and circumstances in Paducah.

It is disgusting that the NRC sits by and rubberstamps a corporation headed by foreign interests that have allowed for two significant technology leaks. Moreover, it is ridiculous that you allow this corporation to prey upon impoverished areas. This is the third poverty-stricken area that LES has approached. In 2000, Eunice had a per capita income of about \$14,000, Hobbs' was about \$20,000. The national per capita income was about \$30,000.

Coincidence...I think not. I read an interesting article that questioned the NRC's intentions. It portrayed you more as a spokesman/marketer rather than a regulator.

Also, it sounds retarded to supply 25 million gallons of water to this place in the DESSERT. I have seen your textbook reply to a citizen's email listing stats about a farm and the Eunice golf course. The water supply may be fine now, but what about in thirty or forty years?

Be prepared for a migration of intelligent people from Lea County. The support for this facility is not as strong as you believe. However, apathy here is strong. Many people see what the oil industry has done and they think "here we go again--nothing we can do". So they remain quiet and

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anticipate leaving this area.

Be thorough and just when preparing the environmental impact statement.
Joseph Shearer