

March 3, 2004

2/4/04

69FR5374

70

Chairman Nils Diaz
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555

Rules and Directives
Branch
USNRC

2004 MAR 16 PM 3:37

RECEIVED

Dear Chairman Diaz:

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed Nuclear Enrichment Facility in Eunice, New Mexico.

I am a life-long resident of New Mexico, with forty-one years of residency established in Eunice. Having had to rely on the oil and gas industry for our livelihood, my husband and I were able to raise five children, who were born and raised in this community. Two of our children still reside here as do eight of our grandchildren.

Our present industry is unpredictable, so many of our youth must relocate in order to have a more stable and secure future.

I was one of the fortunate ones in a group of citizens from Lea County to have been invited to visit the Urenco Nederland B.V. facility in Almelo. Our group observed and toured the plant, which was immaculate. The site was impressive, the flora was abundant and lush. This was not any different from the surrounding countryside, which we were able to observe for miles. We also had the opportunity to visit with the local citizens in Almelo. I personally did not encounter a single person who had negative comments about the Urenco plant or its operation. The air quality has obviously not had any adverse effects in the surrounding area, for there was no visible pall nor was there a stench in or around the area. From personal observation, I am also convinced there is no soil or ground contamination from this facility. Safety measures have been implemented in the plant. I am confident these same safety measures will be implemented in our local plant.

With my children and grandchildren still living in Eunice, I have no qualms in supporting the Louisiana Energy Services' application to operate the National Enrichment Facility in our hometown.

Please offer us the opportunity to diversify our economy in Lea County. In doing so, we may soon realize the creation of new jobs. This will lead to new-housing construction and bring in providers of various services. Most important of all, it will increase school enrollment in our area. Our educational institutions are some of the best in our state.

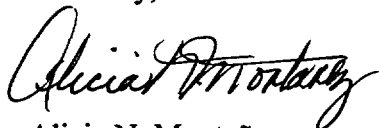
template = ADM-013

F-RFDS = ADM-03
Cedh = T. Johnson (TOS)
M. Wong (MOW)

The National Enrichment Facility will be beneficial to our schools, our City, our County and to all of our Land of Enchantment.

Thank you kindly for your time and consideration of this proposed facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alicia N. Montañez".

Alicia N. Montañez
P.O. Box 1394
Eunice, New Mexico 88231

cc: Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico
Ron Curry, Environment Department Secretary