



2/4/04
69FR5374
91

RECEIVED
2004 MAR 16 PM 3:37
Rules and Directives
Branch
USNRC

March 3, 2004

Chairman Nils Diaz
US Nuclear Regulatory
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Diaz:

As the Executive Vice President & General Manager of Leaco, I am writing to express my support for the planned NEF. Leaco is a Rural Telephone Cooperative that provides services throughout Southeastern New Mexico. As one of the many community leaders that has served as a city council person, a board member of the Nor Lea Hospital District, and in such leadership roles, we realize the need, and we welcome and support the efforts of the local communities to diversify our economy. We realize the additional jobs will also increase the tax base providing a better quality of life for all the citizens in the area.

By supporting the construction of this facility, I am, in reality, supporting the creation of 210 permanent jobs at the facility with annual payroll and benefits exceeding thirteen million dollars. I am also supporting the creation of 400 to 800 short term construction jobs that will provide an estimated payroll of 170 million dollars.

We need to quit educating our youth, only to have to export them to metropolitan areas in order for them to gain employment. Retaining our youth with quality jobs, and increasing our tax base, is the only way the rural areas of New Mexico will survive with a quality life.

It is for these reasons that I offer my backing for the LES in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

John Smith
EVP & General Manager

JES/vas

cc: Governor Bill Richardson
Secretary Ron Curry

F-RIDS=ADM-03
Add=T. Johnson (TJS)
M. Wong (mlw)

GREENFIELD
New Mexico 88230
590 Comanche Road
BUS: 505 734-3312
FAX: 505 734-3326

HOBBS
New Mexico 88240
220 West Broadway
BUS: 505 370-5011
FAX: 505 398-6712

CARLSBAD
New Mexico 88220
307 West Mermod
BUS: 505 885-5388
FAX: 505 628-0854

LOVINGTON
New Mexico 88260
1500 North Love
BUS: 505 370-5010
FAX: 505 398-6060

TATUM
New Mexico 88267
10 West First
BUS: 505 398-2212
FAX: 505 398-3297

template=ADM-013