



Hobbs — More Than Meets the Eye

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Rules and Directives
Branch

February 27, 2004

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

Dear Chairman Diaz:

On behalf of the Hobbs Chamber of Commerce and it's 700 members, we are writing this letter in support of Louisiana Energy Services' (LES) application to build and operate a National Uranium Enrichment Facility in the Eunice area of Lea County, New Mexico. We believe and are convinced that the need for a safe and controlled uranium enrichment facility in the United States would provide the necessary independence and security so important to our current and future energy needs. In reviewing the current data and in visiting with knowledgeable handlers of nuclear and uranium by-products, it appears that NEF's proposed process and technology development will meet or exceed the Commissions requirement. The Enrichment Facilities in Almelo, Netherlands is the proposed model in the development of the NEF facility in Lea County, New Mexico. The information reviewed shows the Almelo facility to be safe, well secured and well operated and presents a positive and desirable addition their neighbors.

The economic impact of 250 technical positions in the southeastern corner of New Mexico could and would change the landscape and culture of our communities in a very positive way. The addition of highly skilled employees and families relocating to the Lea County area, would give needed stability and growth to the area. The site selected for the NEF facility has been proven to be seismically stable and free from foreign contamination. Nowhere in the United States would you find such a location for this process. The proposed NEF facility site would back up to the Waste Control Specialties of Andrews, Texas property and a possible secure and long term repository for the by-products from the LES plant.

*E-RIDS = ADM-03
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HOBBS Chamber of Commerce

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The Hobbs Chamber of Commerce has carefully reviewed the information regarding the Uranium Enrichment process and feels comfortable endorsing the Louisiana Energy Services application to build a processing facility in Lea County and knows that the LES Corporation would be a good corporate citizen. This is an important step that Lea County, New Mexico has taken and it has not taken it lightly and without thought and concern. The time is right for the United States to have its own processing facility and Lea County is the right place to build it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Battaglini", written over a horizontal line.

Ray Battaglini
President

cc: Governor Bill Richardson
Secretary Ron Curry
Senator Pete Domenici
Congressman Stevan Pearce