## Economic Development Corporation of Lea Count

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March 4, 2004

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

Dear Chairman Diaz,

This letter is in support of LES to obtain a license from the NRC to establish a uranium enrichment facility in Eunice, NM.

P.O. Box 1376

(505) 397-2039

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The Economic Development Corporation of Lea County recognizes the tremendous positive economic impact of the proposed Louisiana Energy Services, L.P. (National Enrichment Facility) on the economy of Lea County and the State of New Mexico.

The introduction of the National Enrichment Facility to Lea County will greatly help to diversify the current tax base, which is heavily dependent on the oil and gas industry. In lieu of the fact that Lea County is so reliant upon oil and gas as it economic base, the county has suffered through the various booms and busts of the oilfield and diversification is strongly supported to ensure economic stability for Lea County in the future.

After visiting the uranium enrichment facility in the Netherlands, we are convinced that the 1-800-443-2236 proposed LES National Enrichment Facility will be both a safe and environmentally sound addition to Lea County's economy.

If there is anything further that we can do please do not hesitate to contact us.

FAX: (505) 392-2300

E-mail: edclea@ieaconet.com

Sincerely.

Erika Valdez

Marketing Director

Cc: Governor Bill Richardson Secretary Ron Curry, Environment Department

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