



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management
Carlsbad Field Office
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Carlsbad, NM 88220
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Rules and Directives
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Ms. Melanie Wong
Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

2/4/04

69FR5374

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Dear Ms Wong:

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Carlsbad Field Office appreciates the opportunity to provide technical assistance and participate in the scoping process for the proposed Gas Centrifuge Uranium Enrichment Facility as published in the Federal Register (Vol. 69, No. 23 - Wednesday, February 4, 2004). The BLM understands that the following locations are being considered by Louisiana Energy Services for location of the proposed facility:

- 1) Section 32, T21S, R38E - preferred by LES;
- 2) Section 24, T21S, R27E; and
- 3) Section 8, T22S, R31E.

Following are issues regarding the preferred location and identified alternative locations:

- 1) While the BLM does not manage any of the resources in section 32 the BLM does manage much of the subsurface minerals in adjacent sections and would be interested in how the proposed facility would affect management of those minerals.
- 2) The BLM manages both the surface and subsurface resources in the W½, SW¼, Section 24 and therefore would have a strong interest in proposed facilities or management actions affecting that parcel of land as well as nearby federal land and mineral resources.
- 3) The BLM manages both the surface and subsurface resources in Section 8 and therefore would have a strong interest in proposed facilities or management actions affecting that parcel of land and adjacent federal land and mineral resources.

If the locations identified as alternatives (see #s 2 & 3 above) are carried forward through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis, the BLM is requesting formal cooperating agency status, according to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA. Please contact our office to establish the appropriate agreement documentation. However, if only the preferred alternative is analyzed, then the BLM role will be as an interested party and requests that the agency and Carlsbad Office, specifically, be kept informed through the process and provided NEPA documents to review as they are produced.

Please keep the Carlsbad Field Office (CFO) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) involved in the evaluation of this proposed action. The CFO-BLM contact for this project will be Peg Sorensen at 505-234-5983 or peg_sorensen@blm.gov. Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Leslie Theiss
Carlsbad Field Manager

Template = ADU-013

E-IDS = ADU-03
Call = P. Johnson (TES)
- M. Wong (MCW)