



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING OCT. 14 IN EUNICE, N.M., TO DISCUSS DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR PROPOSED URANIUM PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a public meeting Oct. 14 in Eunice, N.M., to discuss the draft findings of an environmental impact statement for a proposed uranium enrichment plant that may be built in Lea County.

The meeting will be held from 7 - 10 p.m. at the Eunice Community Center, 1115 Avenue I. Beginning at 6 p.m., members of the NRC staff will be available to discuss the proposed project and the environmental impact statement in an informal "open house" format. During the formal meeting, members of the public will be invited to make comments on the draft impact statement, and their comments will be considered by the NRC staff in preparing its final report.

Louisiana Energy Services (LES), a consortium of international and U.S. energy companies, submitted a license application Dec. 12, 2003, for a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment plant, to be called the National Enrichment Facility. The NRC's license review process includes two parallel studies: a safety evaluation to determine whether the proposed plant can be operated safely, and an analysis of the environmental impacts of the proposed project.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is available on the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1790/>. The DEIS presents and compares potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project and its alternatives, and identifies mitigation measures that could eliminate or lessen these impacts.

Comments on the DEIS will be accepted through Nov. 6, and should be submitted to Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Mail Stop T6-D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to nrcprep@nrc.gov, or by facsimile to (301) 415-5397, Attention: Anna Bradford. Please note "Docket No. 70-3103" on the comments.

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