

November 12, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: Joseph G. Giitter, Chief
Special Projects and Inspection Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards

THRU: Brian W. Smith, Chief /RA/
Special Projects Section
Special Projects and Inspection Branch, FCSS

FROM: Timothy C. Johnson /RA/
Senior Mechanical Systems Engineer
Special Projects Section
Special Projects and Inspection Branch, FCSS

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 4, 2003, MEETING SUMMARY: PUBLIC MEETING ON
THE LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES PROPOSED ENRICHMENT
PLANT IN EUNICE, NEW MEXICO

On November 4, 2003, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff held a public meeting to discuss the NRC licensing process applicable to the Louisiana Energy Services (LES) gas centrifuge enrichment plant proposed to be located in Eunice, New Mexico. I am attaching the meeting summary for your use. This summary contains no proprietary or classified information.

Docket: 70-3103

Attachment: Louisiana Energy Services
Meeting Summary

cc:	William Szymanski/DOE	Claydean Claiborne/Jal
	Rod Krich/Exelon	Bobby Walloch/Hobbs
	James Curtiss/W&S	Troy Harris/Lovington
	Mario Robles/USEC	Betty Richman/Tatum
	James Ferland/LES	Glen Hackler/Andrews
	Dennis Holmberg/Lea County	William Floyd/New Mexico
	James Brown/Eunice	Richard Ratliff/Texas
	Michael Marriotte/NIRS	Jerry Clift/Hartsville

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DISTRIBUTION: Docket: 70-3103

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SGagner/OPA	DMcIntyre/OPA	RVirgilio/OSTP	TCombs/OCA
DAYres/Reg II	DSeymour/RegII	JHenson/RegII	RHannah/RegII
KClark/RegII	KO'Brien/Reg III	VMitlyng/RegIII	DHartland/Reg III
WMaier/RegIV	FXCameron/OGC	Hearing file	

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OFC	SPIB		SPIB	2E	SPIB	
NAME	TCJohnson:dw		LGross		BSmith	
DATE	11/ 10/03		11/12/03		11/12/03	

C = COVER

**E = COVER & ENCLOSURE
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N = NO COPY

Summary of Public Meeting on
Louisiana Energy Services Enrichment Plant

Dates: November 4, 2003

Place: Eunice, New Mexico

Attendees: C. Cameron/NRC
T. Combs/NRC
S. Flanders/NRC
T. Harris/NRC
J. Henson/NRC
T. Johnson/NRC
B. Smith/NRC
Approximately 250 members of the public

Purpose:

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensing process, the environmental impact statement (EIS) preparation process, and the inspection program applicable to the Louisiana Energy Services (LES) gas centrifuge enrichment plant proposed to be located in Eunice, New Mexico.

Discussion:

Mr. Cameron began the meeting by discussing the meeting objectives and the agenda. Following short presentations by NRC staff, staff would respond to questions from the public. Mr. Johnson began the presentations with a discussion of the NRC licensing process (see Attachment 1). He discussed the proposed LES project that would use gas centrifuge technology to enrich uranium to levels of 3 to 5 percent U-235, enrichment levels needed for fabrication of fuel for nuclear power plants. He also discussed the nuclear fuel cycle that includes mining, milling, conversion to uranium hexafluoride, enrichment, fuel fabrication, and use in nuclear power plants.

Mr. Johnson indicated that NRC is an independent Federal agency reporting to Congress and not the Executive Branch. It has no authority over Department of Energy (DOE) activities, except for a few cases specifically established by law. For example, NRC has no oversight jurisdiction over the Waste Isolation Pilot Project in Carlsbad, NM, or activities at Los Alamos, NM.

Mr. Johnson explained that LES must demonstrate it can meet the NRC safety requirements before it would be issued a license. He also stated that the NRC licensing process would produce two key documents from its review -- a Safety Evaluation Report (SER) and an EIS. In the SER, NRC would evaluate worker and public safety under routine and accident conditions for the proposed LES operations. This technical review would take about 18 to 20 months to complete. In the EIS, NRC would discuss radiological impacts from the proposed action as well as non-radiological impacts, such as socio-economic impacts, water resource impacts including water use, and cultural resource impacts. He explained that in preparation of the EIS, there would be two public meetings held near the proposed site where members of the public can provide input into the licensing process. The first meeting would be the EIS Scoping Meeting

that is intended to solicit public input on areas that need to be considered in developing the EIS. The second meeting would take comments on the draft EIS that would be prepared based on the EIS scoping process. The EIS scoping meeting would take place two to three months after receipt of the LES license application, which is scheduled to be submitted to the NRC in December 2003.

Mr. Johnson also explained that shortly after docketing the LES application, NRC will offer an opportunity for members of the public to petition for a hearing. This is a formal adjudicatory hearing before three administrative law judges. To be admitted to the hearing, petitioners would have to demonstrate standing, that is, they have a specific interest in the proposed activity, and present admissible contentions that are relevant to the proceeding. Rules for standing and admissible contentions are contained in NRC regulations in 10 CFR Part 2, Subpart G.

Mr. Johnson stated that the licensing process is an open process with all documents and meetings, except for those involving classified and proprietary information, available to the public on NRC's document system and LES project web site. He stated that NRC would have some of its technical meetings with LES in the Eunice area so that the public could observe some of the technical exchanges. He provided project website access information.

Mr. Harris then explained the purpose for preparing an EIS, and that it is a planning and decision-making tool for comparing the environmental impacts of alternatives to the proposed action. He stated that the EIS would address radiological, non-radiological, water use, ecological, and socio-economic impacts of the project.

Mr. Harris then discussed the EIS preparation process, including project scoping, requests for additional information, preparation of a draft EIS, consideration of public comments on the draft EIS, and preparation of a final EIS. He indicated that public meetings would be held in the Eunice area during the scoping and draft EIS comment phases.

Mr. Henson, from NRC's Region II office, provided a discussion on NRC's inspection program. He stated that the inspection program goal is to ensure that a licensee meets NRC regulations and its commitments in its license. The inspection program would focus on worker and public safety, the environment, and national security. He said that NRC inspectors would observe both construction and operational activities. During the construction phase, inspectors would evaluate the construction program to ensure that the facility is built to meet licensee commitments made in its application. During operations, inspections would be conducted in the areas of radiological and chemical safety, safeguards, criticality safety, transportation, waste management, maintenance, training, and quality assurance.

Mr. Johnson concluded the presentations by providing NRC contact information for the project.

Mr. Cameron then moderated the question and answer session. One member of the public asked if there would be an email distribution list. Mr. Johnson indicated that an email distribution list is being set up for project announcements and to notify individuals of upcoming meetings and milestones. Another member of the public suggested that NRC place project documents in local libraries. Mr. Johnson indicated that this could be accomplished. A representative of the local Hispanic labor council requested that some of the documents be translated into Spanish. NRC staff indicated it would evaluate this suggestion. Another member of the public indicated that the county school system has a video-conferencing system

that could be used for NRC technical meetings. Mr. Johnson indicated that he would try to determine the compatibility of this system with the one used at NRC.

One member of the public submitted a list of concerns (see Attachment 2) related to foreign ownership of the plant; terrorism; safety problems at the Urenco plant in Almelo, The Netherlands; the hazards of plutonium; and the need for gas masks and radiation protection suits to be distributed in everyone in Lea County.

Mr. Johnson provided additional information on the terrorism issue, indicating that NRC has a large effort underway to consider additional physical protection requirements and coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that Federal assets including airspace security and national defense are coordinated with licensee physical protection requirements. He explained that the Commission recently concluded that because terrorist events, like the September 11 attacks, are very low probability events that would be difficult to evaluate. He added that the EIS is required to address "foreseeable impacts" and that the Commission concluded that September-11-type events are not "foreseeable."

Mr. Johnson also explained the plutonium and neptunium are not expected to be a significant part of the LES source term, and that concerns over exposures to these materials result principally from activities conducted at the Paducah site that did not involve enrichment activities.

In addition, Mr. Johnson indicated that the Urenco plant in Almelo has a good safety record and releases have been within the limits established by The Netherlands. He stated that he and several NRC staff visited the Urenco plants in Almelo and Capenhurst, and considered the plants to be well run. He said that NRC staff is unaware of any health effects in the local populations surrounding the Urenco facilities.

Throughout the question and answer session, the members of the public attending the meeting showed overwhelming support for the project. Individuals speaking positively for the enrichment plant included individual citizens, local elected officials, and public school and local college officials. These people indicated their desire for timely processing of the LES application. Several individuals noted that people in the area are very familiar with the risks involved in oil and gas operational hazards and look at the LES project as an important new economic development. A representative of the Lea County Economic Development Corporation provided an open letter to NRC from several New Mexico State Senators and Congressmen stating their strong support for the project (see Attachment 3). Representatives of U.S. Congressman Pearce and Senator Bingaman also indicated strong support for the project.

Action Items:

1. Establish email distribution list
2. Check on making documents available in public libraries
3. Check on video-conferencing compatibilities
4. Check on translation of project documents

Attachments:

1. NRC presentation handout
2. L. Cheney concerns
3. Open letter from elected representatives



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LES PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

EUNICE, NEW MEXICO

NOVEMBER 4, 2003



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OBJECTIVES

- **PROVIDE BRIEF SUMMARY OF**
 - **PROPOSED PROJECT**
 - **NRC LICENSING PROCESS**
 - **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROCESS**
 - **NRC INSPECTION PROGRAM**
 - **ANSWER PUBLIC QUESTIONS**
-



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PROPOSED PROJECT

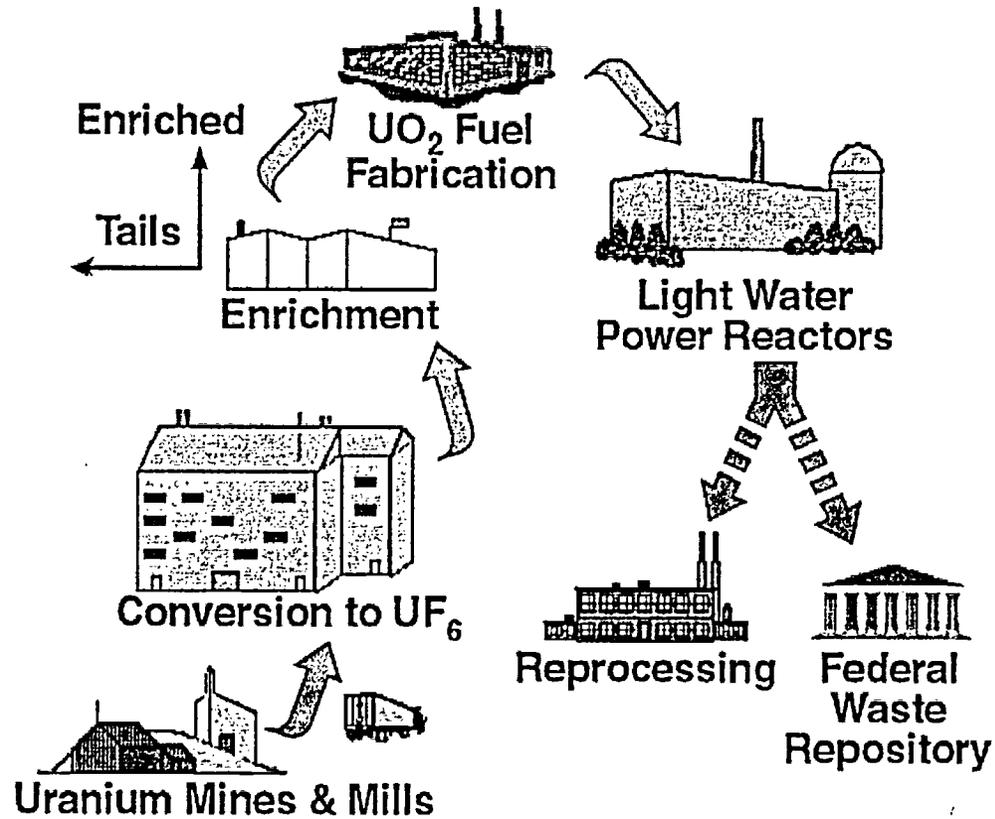
- **LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES (LES) IS PROPOSING TO ENRICH URANIUM USING A GAS CENTRIFUGE PROCESS IN EUNICE, NM.**

 - **ENRICHED URANIUM IS NEEDED FOR FUEL FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.**

 - **AFTER MINING AND INITIAL PROCESSING, URANIUM IS CONVERTED INTO URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE. URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE IS THEN SHIPPED TO AN ENRICHMENT PLANT.**
-



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- **THE GAS CENTRIFUGE PROCESS USES A HIGH-SPEED ROTOR TO SEPARATE THE U-235 AND U-238 ISOTOPES AND INCREASE THE U-235 CONTENT FROM 0.7 PERCENT TO 3 TO 5 PERCENT.**

 - **THESE ENRICHMENT LEVELS ARE WELL BELOW THAT NEEDED TO MAKE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.**

 - **THE ENRICHED URANIUM HEXAFLUORIDE IS THEN SHIPPED TO A FUEL FABRICATOR THAT PRODUCES FUEL PELLETS AND FUEL ASSEMBLIES FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.**
-



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NRC LICENSING PROCESS

- **NRC IS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING PROTECTION OF PUBLIC AND WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY IN USE OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS.**

 - **NRC IS NOT A PROMOTER OF PROPOSED PROJECT.**

 - **ENRICHMENT FACILITY CONSTRUCTION CANNOT BEGIN UNTIL A LICENSE FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION IS ISSUED.**
-



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- LES IS PROPOSING TO SUBMIT A LICENSE APPLICATION IN DECEMBER 2003.

 - NRC WILL PERFORM A TECHNICAL REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION TO ENSURE IT MEETS NRC HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS (10 CFR PARTS 40 AND 70).

 - NRC WILL PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS).

 - HEARING IS REQUIRED FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY (10 CFR PART 2).
-



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- **NRC TECHNICAL REVIEW WILL TAKE 18-20 MONTHS.**
 - **NRC TO REVIEW APPLICATION**
 - **REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, IF NEEDED**
 - **DOCUMENT SAFETY REVIEW IN SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT**



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- **NRC USES AN OPEN LICENSING PROCESS**

 - **PUBLIC WILL HAVE SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE INPUT TO THE LICENSING PROCESS.**
 - **OPPORTUNITY TO PETITION FOR A HEARING WILL BE OFFERED SHORTLY AFTER APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED.**

 - **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**
 - **SCOPING MEETING**

 - **DRAFT EIS**
-



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- **SOME TECHNICAL MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN EUNICE AREA.**

 - **NRC HAS LES PROJECT AND GAS CENTRIFUGE WEBSITES**
(<http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/lesfacility.html>)
(<http://www.nrc.gov/materials/fuel-cycle-fac/gas-centrifuge.html>)
-



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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROCESS

TIM HARRIS



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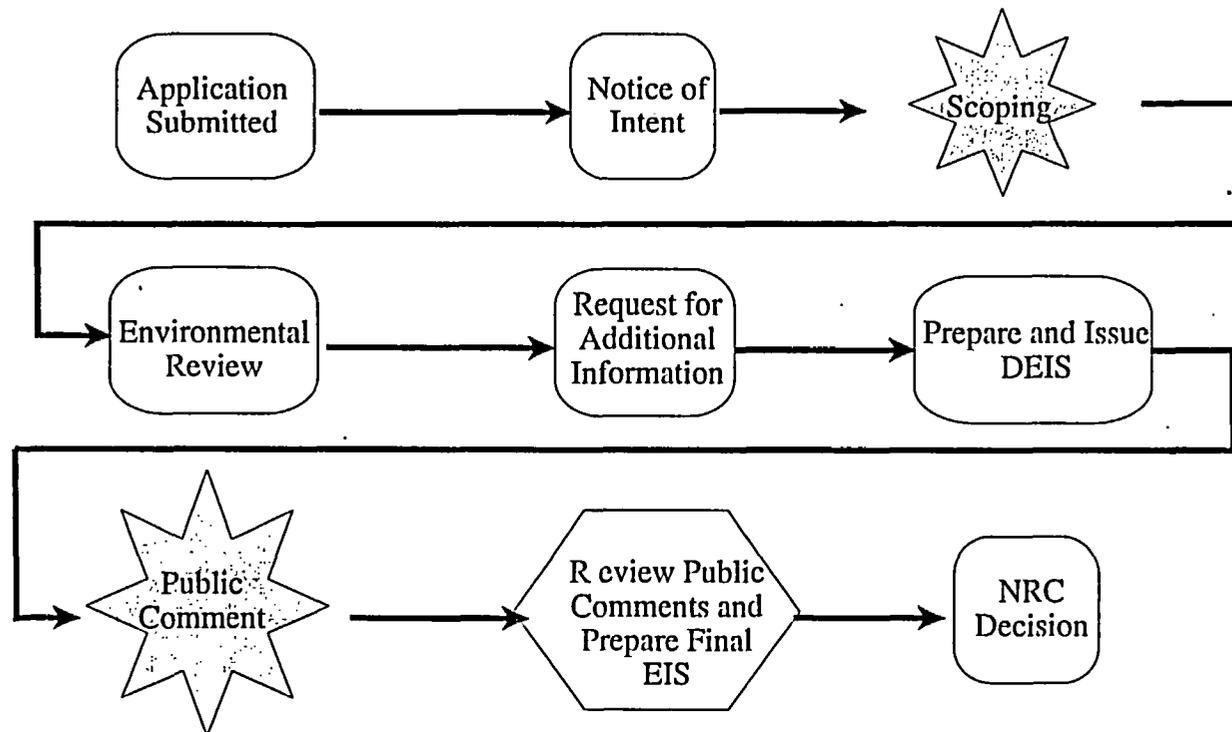
Why we conduct environmental reviews?

- **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969**
 - **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**
 - **PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING TOOL**
 - **COMPARES IMPACTS AMONG ALTERNATIVE**
 - **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**
 - **AIR QUALITY**
 - **WATER QUALITY**
 - **ECOLOGY**
-



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EIS Process





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THE INSPECTION PROGRAM

**JAY HENSON
REGION II ATLANTA OFFICE**



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THE INSPECTION PROGRAM

INSPECT TO ASSESS WHETHER FACILITIES ARE OPERATED SAFELY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRC REGULATIONS AND THE LICENSE TO ENSURE THAT LICENSEE ACTIVITIES DO NOT POSE UNDUE SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDS RISKS TO:

- **WORKER AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**
- **ENVIRONMENT**
- **NATIONAL SECURITY**

HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL STAFF CONDUCT INSPECTIONS



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THE INSPECTION PROGRAM

REGULATORY GOAL: CONTROL RISKS TO ACCEPTABLE LEVELS IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

INSPECTION ACTIVITIES COMMENSURATE WITH RISK AND PERFORMANCE OF FACILITY

ASSURE THAT THE FACILITY IS CONSTRUCTED AND OPERATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COMMITMENTS THE APPLICANT MADE IN THE LICENSE



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THE INSPECTION PROGRAM

CONSTRUCTION PHASE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

**QUALITY ASSURANCE
DESIGN CHANGES
PROCUREMENTS
RECORDS
TRAINING
GEOTECHNICAL/FOUNDATION
STRUCTURAL CONCRETE**

**STRUCTURAL STEEL
PIPING
MECHANICAL COMPONENTS
ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS
INSTRUMENTATION
WELDING
TESTING AND CALIBRATIONS**



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THE INSPECTION PROGRAM

INSPECTION ACTIVITIES DURING FACILITY OPERATIONS

**SAFETY: CHEMICAL; NUCLEAR CRITICALITY; PLANT OPERATIONS;
 MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION AND CONTROLS; FIRE SAFETY**

**SAFEGUARDS: CONTROL ACCOUNTING, AND PHYSICAL PROTECTION OF
 SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL AND CLASSIFIED
 INFORMATION**



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**RADIOLOGICAL: RADIATION PROTECTION; ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION; WASTE MANAGEMENT;
TRANSPORTATION; AND LOW-LEVEL WASTE
STORAGE**

**FACILITY SUPPORT: MAINTENANCE/SURVEILLANCE; TRAINING;
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**



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NRC CONTACTS

LES PROJECT MANAGER: TIM JOHNSON; 301-415-7299; TCJ@NRC.GOV

EIS PROJECT MANAGER: TIM HARRIS; 301-415-6613; TEH@NRC.GOV

PROJECT INSPECTOR: DEBORAH SEYMOUR; 404-562-4725;
DAS@NRC.GOV

NRC COPY

CALL ON HIM
LEE

GOOD EVENING.

MY NAME IS LEE CHENEY AND I'M HERE REPRESENTING THE CITIZENS NUCLEAR INFORMATION CENTER IN HOBBS.

I HAVE FIVE CONCERNS:

- (1) ABOUT AMERICAN OWNERSHIP AND NATIONAL SECURITY.
- (2) ABOUT TERRORISM
- (3) ABOUT URENCO PROBLEMS IN THE NETHERLANDS
- (4) ABOUT PLUTONIUM & NEPTUNIUM
- (5) ABOUT PROTECTION OF THE GENERAL POPULATION OF LEA COUNTY & WEST TEXAS IF THERE IS A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT.

(1) FIRST, ABOUT AMERICAN OWNERSHIP AND NATIONAL SECURITY. IT IS A MATTER OF RECORD THAT URENCO, A FOREIGN CORPORATION OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS AND GREAT BRITAIN (WITH FINANCIAL TIES TO THE FRENCH AND IRANIAN GOVERNMENTS), ALLOWED SOME OF THE MOST SENSITIVE NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF ROGUE IRAQ AND POSSIBLY OTHERS. THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY AND CONTROL OF THIS TECHNOLOGY IS FOR THIS URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY TO BE AT LEAST 51% OWNED BY THE PEOPLE OF LEA COUNTY AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED TO LES AND TO THE LEA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. WITH THIS IN MIND I ASK THAT THE NRC REFUSE TO GRANT AN OPERATING LICENSE TO LES TO BUILD THIS FACILITY UNLESS AT LEAST 51% OF THIS FACILITY IS OWNED BY THE PEOPLE OF LEA COUNTY.

(2) SECOND, ABOUT TERRORISM. I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH SECURITY LES HAS OR WHAT LES TELLS US ABOUT HOW SAFE THE LES URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY WILL BE. NOTHING HAS EVER BEEN BUILT BY MAN THAT CAN NOT BE DESTROYED. WHAT I WANT TO SEE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT IS A SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF THE AMOUNT OF GAS & RADIATION THAT WILL BE EMITTED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE IF THE LES NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT FACILITY IS BLOWN UP AND COMPLETELY DESTROYED BY TERRORISTS THE WAY THE WORLD TRADE CENTER WAS BLOWN UP AND DESTROYED ON 911.

(3) THIRD, ABOUT URENCO PROBLEMS IN THE NETHERLANDS. IT IS A MATTER OF RECORD THAT THE URENCO URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY IN ALMELO, NETHERLANDS HAS HAD ITS OPERATING LICENSE REVOKED TWICE FOR EXCESSIVE EMISSIONS OF GAS AND RADIATION INTO THE ENVIRONMENT BUT BECAUSE OF POLITICAL AND LEGAL MANIPULATIONS AND INTRIGUE URENCO WAS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE OPERATING ANYWAY SPEWING THESE EXCESSIVE GAS AND RADIO ACTIVE EMISSIONS INTO THE AIR WHICH HAS CAUSED SEVERE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE NETHERLANDS AND

GERMANY. I WANT THE NRC TO PUT A 100% LOOPHOLE PROOF REQUIREMENT IN THE LES OPERATING LICENSE AGREEMENT THAT LES WILL BE SHUT DOWN IMMEDIATELY FOR ANY VIOLATION OF THE GAS & RADIATION EMISSIONS LIMITS AUTHORIZED BY THE LES OPERATING LICENSE AND THAT LES WILL REMAIN SHUT DOWN UNTIL THE NRC DETERMINES THAT IT IS SAFE FOR LES TO BEGIN OPERATION AGAIN.

(4) FORTH, ABOUT PLUTONIUM. PLUTONIUM IS ABOUT 100,000 TIMES MORE RADIOACTIVE THAN URANIUM AND IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST DEADLY POISONS. IF AN ASPIRIN WAS CRUSHED UP INTO 6,250 PIECES, PLUTONIUM IS SO DANGEROUS THAT INHALING AS LITTLE AS 3 MILLIONTHS OF AN OUNCE -- THE WEIGHT OF JUST ONE OF 6,250 EQUAL SLICES OF AN ASPIRIN TABLET - WOULD GUARANTEE FATAL LUNG CANCER IN A HUMAN BEING. PLUTONIUM HAS BEEN RELEASED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE BY THE URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY IN PADUCAH, KY CAUSED BY IMPURE URANIUM. THE DOE ESTIMATED THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF PLUTONIUM THAT THE NRC HAS ALLOWED THE PADUCAH URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT TO SPEW INTO THE AIR TOTALS 328 GRAMS, OR 11.6 OUNCES WHICH IS ONLY PART OF THE REASON THAT THE PADUCAH URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT IS CAUSING SEVERE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THAT AREA. THE DOE SAID THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC MONITORING FOR AIR EMISSIONS OF PLUTONIUM AT THE PADUCAH URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY. I WANT THE NRC TO MAKE SURE THAT ANY OPERATING LICENSE GRANTED TO LES REQUIRES ZERO EMISSIONS OF PLUTONIUM AND NEPTUNIUM.

(5) MY 5TH CONCERN IS ABOUT PROTECTION OF THE GENERAL POPULATION OF LEA COUNTY & WEST TEXAS IF THERE IS A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT. THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS HAVE, OR WILL BE, ISSUED GAS MASKS AND RADIATION PROTECTION SUITS IN CASE THERE IS A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT. I WANT THE NRC TO REQUIRE LES TO GIVE EVERY CITIZEN IN LEA COUNTY AND WEST TEXAS A GAS MASK AND RADIATION PROTECTION SUIT BEFORE THE NRC ISSUES LES AN OPERATING LICENSE.

I WANT TO THANK THE NRC FOR HOLDING THIS MEETING AND FOR ALLOWING ME TO PRESENT THESE CONCERNS TO THEM.

Submitted to the NRC and read at the NRC meeting in Eunice, NM on 11/04/03 by Lee Cheney 420 W. Humble, Hobbs, NM 88240-7116. Tel. 505-397-2147 e-mail: lee_cheney@leaco.net.



New Mexico State Legislature

November 4, 2003

STATE CAPITOL
Santa Fe

Open letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Dear NRC:

The undersigned, member of the New Mexico State Legislature, representing Lea County in both the New Mexico House of Representatives and Senate, wish to express our unqualified support for the licensing and construction of the National Enrichment Facility (NEF) proposed by LES for Lea County.

Each of us, over the last several months, has had opportunity to meet with, question and work closely with representatives of LES. Our questions and concerns have been addressed in both a substantive and qualitative manner. Some of us have visited the uranium enrichment facility that is the model for the NEF in Almelo, Netherlands, constructed and operated by Ureconco, majority owner of LES and provider of the LES centrifuge technology.

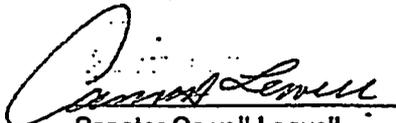
These experiences have led us to conclude that this facility will be operated with the utmost of care and safety. It will contribute significantly to energy security and independence for the United States, and it will provide outstanding economic benefits to the people of southeast New Mexico.

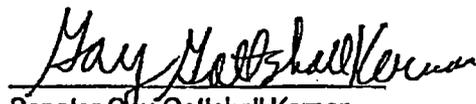
We have found this company, LES, to be open, honest and forthright in their dealings not only with us, but with all the citizens of New Mexico. They demonstrated a commitment to honesty and quality that will make them a valued member of our community, and will make this facility one we will feel proud to be associated with.

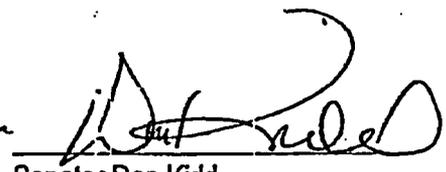
We urge the NRC to expeditiously process this license application, and stand ready to provide any additional information to you as you may request. We know that these sentiments are shared by many, many of our constituents in Lea County.

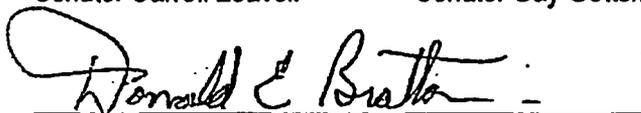
Thank you for your consideration.

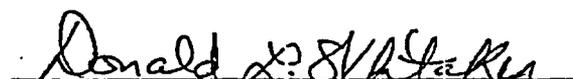
Sincerely,


Senator Carroll Leavell


Senator Gay Gottshall Kernan


Senator Don Kidd


Representative Donald E. Bratton


Representative Donald ... Whitaker