



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

LES PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

EUNICE, NEW MEXICO

NOVEMBER 4, 2003



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

OBJECTIVES

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



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

PROPOSED PROJECT

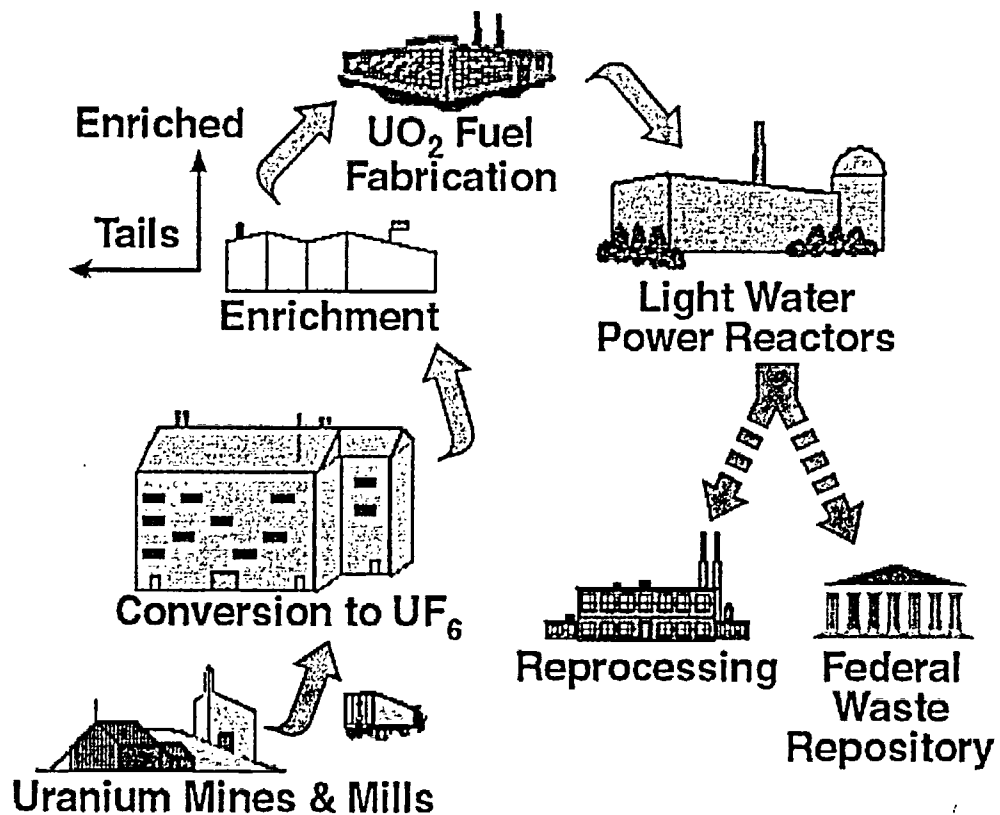
- **LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES (LES) IS PROPOSING TO ENRICH URANIUM USING A GAS CENTRIFUGE PROCESS IN EUNICE, NM.**

 - **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.**
-



United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission





United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- 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.
-



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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.**
-



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- 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).
-



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- **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**
-



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- 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>)
-



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PROCESS

TIM HARRIS



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

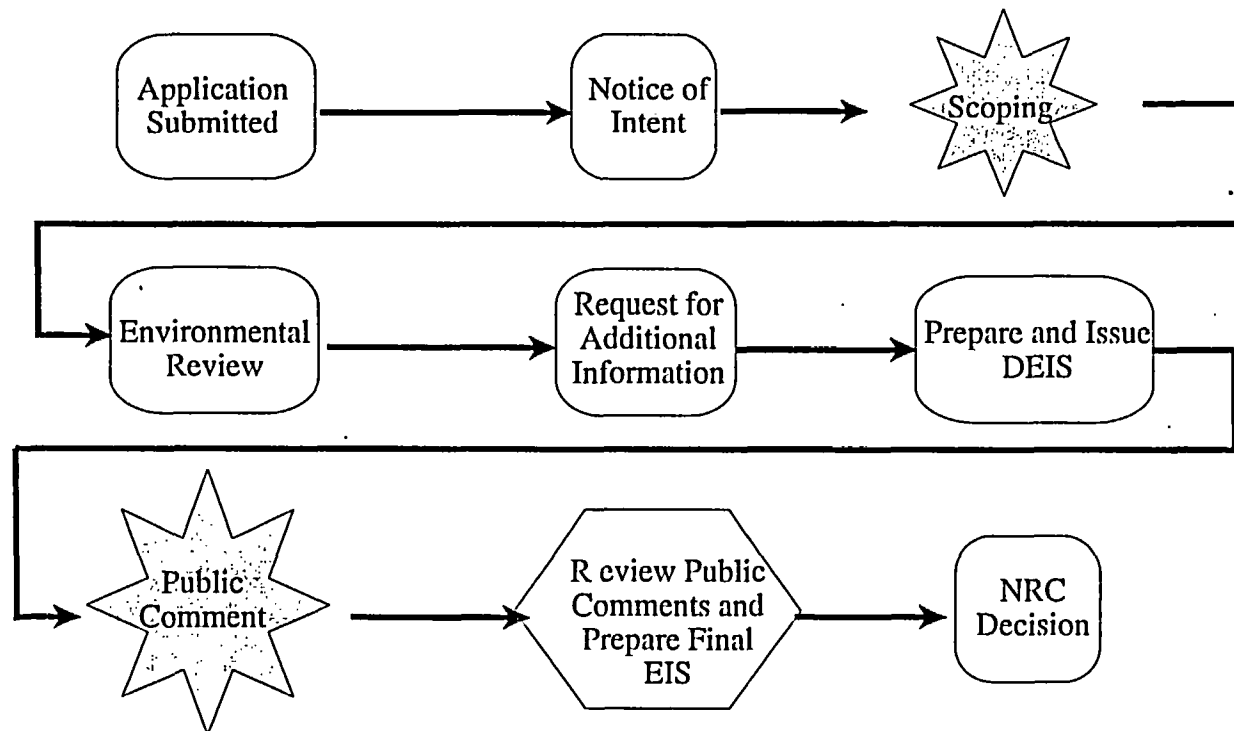
Why we conduct environmental reviews?

- **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**
-



*United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission*

EIS Process





United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

THE INSPECTION PROGRAM

JAY HENSON
REGION II ATLANTA OFFICE



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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**



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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**



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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**



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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

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



United States
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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

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 Ureco, majority owner of LES and provider of the LES centrifuge technology.

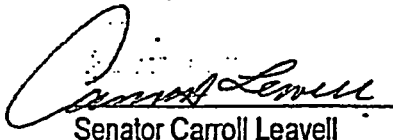
These experiences have led us to conclude that this facility will be operated with the utmost of care and safety. It will contribute significantly to energy security and independence for the United States, and it will provide outstanding economic benefits to the people of southeast New Mexico.

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 honest 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.

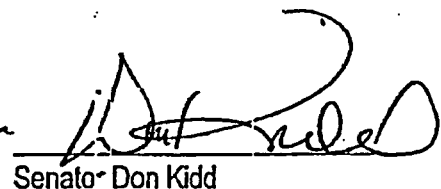
We urge the NRC to expeditiously process this license application, and stand ready to provide any additional information to you as you may request. We know that these sentiments are shared by many, many of our constituents in Lea County.

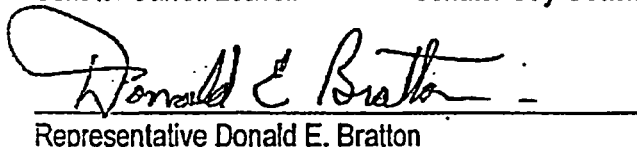
Thank you for your consideration.

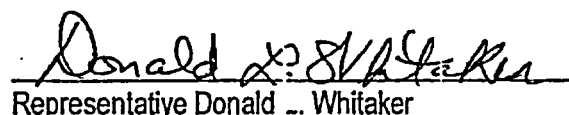
Sincerely,


Senator Carroll Leavell


Senator Gay Gottshall Kernan


Senator Don Kidd


Representative Donald E. Bratton


Representative Donald M. Whitaker