

February 17, 2004

Ms. Holly B. E. Houghten  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Mescalero Apache Tribe  
P.O. Box 227  
Mescalero, New Mexico 88340

SUBJECT: INITIATION OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT  
SECTION 106 CONSULTATION FOR LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES  
PROPOSED GAS CENTRIFUGE URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY IN LEA  
COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

Dear Ms. Houghten:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has recently received an application from Louisiana Energy Services (LES) to construct, operate, and decommission the National Enrichment Facility (NEF), a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility. The proposed NEF would be located near Eunice, New Mexico, in Lea County and would be within a 543 acre parcel of land that LES is in the process of acquiring from the State of New Mexico. The NRC is in the initial stages of developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will document the impacts associated with the NEF.

In September 2003, LES performed a survey of the proposed NEF site. Seven prehistoric archeological sites were identified with several of these sites occurring in the area of potential effects (APE). One site that may be affected is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historical Places. The APE is considered the NEF site area including permanent and temporary building(s) footprints, parking and lay-down areas, and all site access roads. LES has indicated that it intends to submit the complete Cultural Resources Survey Report of all survey findings.

The NRC staff is soliciting information from potential consulting parties as the NRC begins it's Section 106 consultation with the New Mexico State Historical Preservation Office. As the NRC staff intends to use the EIS process for Section 106 purposes, we would also like to invite you to attend a public meeting that we will be hosting on Thursday, March 4, 2004, at the Eunice Community Center, 1115 Avenue I, in Eunice, New Mexico, from 7:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to solicit comments from members of the public on the scope of the EIS review.

Ms. H. Houghten

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If you are unable to attend this meeting, we would still like to hear from you. You are invited to contact Matthew Blevins of my staff at (301) 415-7684 so we may hear your comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Lawrence E. Kokajko, Chief  
Environmental and Performance  
Assessment Branch  
Division of Waste Management  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 70-3103

Attachment: Cultural Resources Information for LES National Enrichment Facility,  
Environmental Report, December 12, 2003

cc: Ms. Jan Biella  
Deputy SHPO  
Historic Preservation Division  
Office of Cultural Affairs  
228 East Palace Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87503

Identical Letter sent to:

Alonso Chalepah, Chairman  
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma  
PO Box 1220  
Anadarko, OK 73005

Jimmy Arterberry, Director of Environment  
Comanche of Oklahoma  
PO Box 908  
Lawton, OK 73502

Clifford A. McKenzie, Chairman  
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma  
PO Box 369  
Carnegie, OK 73015

Arturo Sinclair, Governor  
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo  
P.O. Box 17579 - Ysleta Station  
El Paso, TX 79917

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**ADAMS: ML 040500295****\*see previous concurrence**

<b>OFC</b>	DWM/EPAB	SC:DWM/EPAB	OGC	BC:DWM/EPAB
<b>NAME</b>	MBlevins:rmh*	SCFlanders*	LClark:NLO*	LEKokajko
<b>DATE</b>	2/05/04	2/ 17 /04	2/5/04	02/17 /04

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(Initials) (Date)

Please address letter to the following people:

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