

March 2, 2004

Ms. Joy Nicholopoulos
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New Mexico Field Office
2105 Osuna Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ENDANGERED SPECIES AND
CRITICAL HABITATS FOR LOUISIANA ENERGY SERVICES PROPOSED GAS
CENTRIFUGE URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY IN LEA COUNTY, NM

Dear Ms. Nicholopoulos:

Louisiana Energy Services (LES) has submitted a license application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to construct, operate, and decommission a proposed gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility. The NRC is in the initial stages of developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed facility to be located near Eunice, New Mexico, in Lea County. The proposed facility, as well as all associated construction, operation, and decommissioning activities and impacts, will be within the 220-ha (543 acre) LES National Enrichment Facility (NEF) site.

We are requesting a list of threatened or endangered species or critical habitats within the action area. The action area is defined as the NEF site which is located in Section 32 of Township 21 South, Range 38 East (New Mexico Meridian). The approximate center is at Latitude 32 degrees, 26 minutes, 1.74 seconds North and Longitude 103 degrees, 4 minutes, 43.47 seconds West. The action area is approximately 5 miles East of Eunice, New Mexico and is bordered on the South by New Mexico Highway 234.

After assessing the information provided by you, the NRC will determine what additional actions are necessary to comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. If you have any questions or comments, or need any additional information, please contact Matthew Blevins of my staff at 301-415-7684.

Sincerely,

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

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Lawrence E. Kokajko, Chief
Environmental and Performance
Assessment Branch
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Office of Nuclear Material Safety
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Docket No.: 70-3103

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***See previous concurrence**

OFC	DWM/EPAB	SC:DWM/EPAB	OGC	BC:DWM/EPAB
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