

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

To: Virgil, NMSS

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AUTHOR: Darrold Stephenson

AFFILIATION: NM

ADDRESSEE: CHRM Nils Diaz

SUBJECT: Letter in Support of Louisiana Energy Services' (LES) application to build and operate a National Enrichment Facility in Lea Co., NM

ACTION: Appropriate

DISTRIBUTION: Cy RF

LETTER DATE: 02/29/2004

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING: ADAMS for immediate release via SECY/EDO/DPC

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE:

DATE SIGNED:

DARROLD E. STEPHENSON

February/29/2004

Chairman Nils J Diaz, Ph.D.
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
Washington, D.C. 20555

RE: IN SUPPORT OF LES & NEF

Dear Chairman Diaz:

The whole of Lea County is very excited about the possibility of the National Enrichment Facility locating near Eunice, New Mexico. To my knowledge, there are very few nay Sayers of the project. Most of the people that I, personally have contacted with regard to the impact that this facility will have on Lea County and New Mexico have positive views of it.

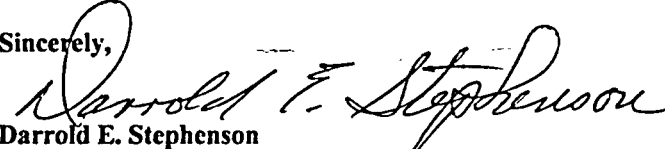
I have, personally gone to Almelo, The Netherlands to view a plant there that would be of the same type to be built near Eunice. Being very impressed with the operation of the plant, there I became very excited about Eunice, New Mexico getting one like it. With the safety of our people uppermost in my mind, I believe this endeavor to be as safe or safer than breathing the fumes from our local oil and gas fields.

We are in need of enriched uranium here in the United States as nuclear energy supplies about 20% of our electricity and is a cost effective way to produce electricity. NEF will use advanced technology that will use a minimum of natural resources, such as water, and will be energy efficient.

We believe, here in Lea county, that this will have a huge economic impact on our county. Also, I believe that as a country, the United States needs to devise a way to become less reliant on the global marketplace for our nuclear energy.

Please consider positively for the construction and operation of the proposed Uranium Enrichment Facility at Eunice, New Mexico. I believe it will have a positive impact, not only on our economy in Lea County, but for the whole United States.

Sincerely,


Darrold E. Stephenson
Lea County Commissioner
Jal City Counselor

Cc: Governor Bill Richardson
State Capitol
Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Secretary: Ron Curry
Environmental Department
Harold Runnels Bldg.
Santa Fe, NM 87503 Environmental Department