

Chairman Nils Diaz
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555

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Dear Chairman Diaz,

Rules and Directives
Branch

I fully support the gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility that will be built in Lea County, New Mexico. This facility will enable the United States to have a domestic source of enriched uranium for the country's commercial nuclear power plants and the introduction of the NEF will help to diversify the region's current economic base, which today relies primarily on energy and extractive industries such as oil and gas production.

Nuclear energy supplies approximately 20 percent of U.S. electricity and is the second greatest source of the nation's electricity. The NEF will provide a sustainable domestic supply of low enriched uranium, thereby substantially reducing the United States reliance on the global nuclear fuel marketplace and encouraging competition within the U.S. Market.

Developed by Urenco Ltd., the technology has been in use for over 30 years which is both safe and environmentally sound and this technology is the world's most advanced energy-efficient and cost effective uranium enrichment technology.

The \$1.2 billion National Enrichment Facility will have a positive economic impact on the southeastern New Mexico economies. The project will create 400 to 800 short-term jobs for New Mexico construction workers and annual facility operations will involve approximately 210 employees who will receive an estimated annual pay of \$10 million.

There will be opportunities for new housing construction, provision of services and education. The majority of the new positions require classroom instruction and on-the-job training which the NEF will provide.

Many positive benefits will be the outcome of this new facility. It will be an asset to the citizens of Lea County and the state of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Ramona Fredrick
Students

CC: Governor Bill Richardson
Secretary Ron Curry

E-RIDS = ADM-03

Add = M. Wong (MCW)

T. Johnson (TCTJ)

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