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Public Comment Form
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
for the Proposed National Enrichment Facility in Lea County, New Mexico
NUREG-1790

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(29)

Comment:

Steady long term employment, steady salaries would stimulate the in the whole area

This plant is a billion and a half dollars construction effort and will produce well paid employment for decades and generations. We believe that the plant license or permit requested is 30 years, but in reality, it should be operation much longer. Nuclear power stations are now being licensed for 60years. We , New Mexico, can tax it and also the considerable economic development that will occur in SE New Mexico. The plant is therefore important for New Mexico

During operation, about $105 million in wages and bnefits and $9.6 million in purchasing local goods and services would be spent annually. Construction and operation of the facility would have additional indirect economic impacts by creating additional indirect economic impacts by creating additional employment and economic activity.

The NRC also found that the NEF will provide more than 200 permanent jobs and more than 400 multi-year construction jobs in Southeast New Mexico The local economy will be correspondingly benefited.commerce.

To submit your comment, please give this form to an NRC representative at tonight's meeting, or mail to: Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mailstop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Your comments should be mailed in time to reach the NRC by November 6, 2004

E-RIDS = ADM-03
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Template = ADM-013

Environmental Impact in Hobbs-Eunice Area

The stored by-product is depleted uranium hexafluoride. Uranium hexafluoride has been used since WW-2, 1944, in the diffusion plant enrichment process. To our knowledge there has been no hazard from the on-site storage of this material. The risk of harm to people or the environment is truly vanishingly small. We doubt that any radiation could be detected through the steel containers.

We agree with the NRC's assessment that the plant will have a "small" to "moderate" impact on the local environment. These words mean that only normal, expected impact, as from a corn flakes manufacturing plant, will be created,

The UF6 will be stored in steel cylinders in an orderly array. The very, very weak radioactive emissions of depleted uranium will be unable to penetrate the thickness of the steel containers. Thus the storage will be, essentially, not radioactive at all.

Economic Benefit to the United States

Nuclear plants produce about 20% of the electricity for the nation. Their licences are being extended to 60 years. We can expect many more such plants to be built.

This plant will produce slightly enriched uranium for the 103 or so nuclear plants in the US. Currently, about 85% of the fuel for these plants is imported, mostly from Europe. This plant, alone, will provide 25% of the fuel for US plants, thus contributing to less dependence on foreign imports. Thus, this plant is important for the nation.

The proposed NEF would provide an additional, reliable, and economical domestic source of enrichment services.

The by-product of the plant, depleted uranium, is a material that will be important in future years when the easily available uranium ore is used. The depleted uranium will be used in what are called "fast neutron reactors". and therefore can and should be referred to as a "resource material". These will be required for electricity production in 50-75 years. Of incidental interest, some designs of these future plants are even safer than the current design of light water reactors.

Environmental Benefit to the United States

The burning of coal, oil, and natural gas has reached the stage where the matter of climate change or global warming is taken more and more seriously. The environmental effect of this combustion is not known accurately, but the prospects are not good. The only source of major contributions to our electric demand is nuclear energy.which emits no carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, mercury, uranium or fine soot particles. The plant at Eunice will provide a reliable domestic source of fuel for existing power stations and for future power stations, which we hope

and expect to be built.

The combustion of gasoline (from oil) is a major contributor to carbon dioxide and unburned hydrocarbons in the atmosphere. This is a tough nut to crack, but a first step would be encourage the use of hybrid automobiles [battery and internal combustion engines]. Propulsion of automobiles would then be, in part, from electric power This would be a slow process, but as with the replacement of coal fired power stations this is the best time to start. A carbon tax could accelerate the process.

We can refer to scholarly articles in publications such as Physics Today, Scientific American, and the National Geographic. We can probably find more.

The electric energy demand in the United States continues to climb as electricity replaces other energy sources and the population rises. This plant will provide encouragement for continued expansion of the nuclear industry. Every new nuclear plant will eliminate the need for coal or oil fired plants that would spew CO2, dust, metals and other pollution into the atmosphere. Thus the plant will contribute to the environment of the United States and is important for the whole country. This plant and nuclear power stations are "green" in the finest meaning of the environmental movement.