



# NRC NEWS

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, DC 20555-001

E-mail: [opa@nrc.gov](mailto:opa@nrc.gov)

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>

No. 04-068

June 4, 2004

## **ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD TO HEAR ARGUMENTS JUNE 15 - 16 IN HOBBS, N.M., ON PROPOSED URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY**

An Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will hold a prehearing conference in Hobbs, New Mexico, on June 15 - 16, in connection with a proceeding involving Louisiana Energy Services' (LES) proposed gas centrifuge uranium enrichment plant in Eunice, New Mexico, to be known as the National Enrichment Facility.

The conference will focus on arguments for and against the admissibility of several contentions raised by the New Mexico Environment Department, the Attorney General of New Mexico, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, and Public Citizen. The contentions involve issues such as waste storage and disposal, radiation protection, foreign ownership and ground/surface water impacts. The petitioners, LES and Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will have the opportunity to argue their positions before the Board.

The ASLB conference will start at 9 a.m. each day in the Lea County Event Center, 5101 Lovington Highway in Hobbs. Any person who is not a party to the proceeding may submit comments in writing, known as written limited appearance statements, concerning the contentions to be discussed during the conference. These statements, which become part of the hearing docket, provide members of the public an opportunity to make the Board and/or the parties aware of their concerns in connection with the issues. The Board does not intend to conduct oral limited appearance sessions at this point, although it may do so in the future at locations near the proposed facility.

Written limited appearance statements can be submitted at any time and should be sent to:

Mail - Office of Secretary  
Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Fax - (301) 415-1101 (verification (301) 415-1966)

E-Mail - [hearingdocket@nrc.gov](mailto:hearingdocket@nrc.gov)

A copy of the written limited appearance statement should also be sent to the Chairman of the licensing board as follows:

Mail - Administrative Judge G. Paul Bollwerk, III  
Atomic Safety & Licensing Board Panel (Mail Stop T-3F23)  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555 - 0001

Fax - (301) 415-5599 (verification (301) 415-7550)

E-Mail: - [gpb@nrc.gov](mailto:gpb@nrc.gov)

###