

## Private ISF

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**From:** Mann, Melissa <Melissa.Mann@urenc.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2017 5:35 PM  
**To:** PrivateISF  
**Subject:** Response to RFI on Private Initiatives to Develop Consolidated SNF Storage Facilities  
**Attachments:** URENCO USA comments on DOE RFI on approaches involving private initiatives for CIS January 2017.pdf

Dear Mr. Griffith:

URENCO USA is pleased to submit the attached comments on the Department's RFI on Private Initiatives to Develop Consolidated SNF Storage Facilities. We welcome any questions or comments you may have.

Best regards,

Melissa Mann

President, URENCO USA Inc.

Please note my new email address: [Melissa.Mann@urenc.com](mailto:Melissa.Mann@urenc.com) <<mailto:Melissa.Mann@urenc.com>>

Melissa Mann

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Via Electronic Submission (PrivateISF@hq.doe.gov)

Non-confidential

January 25, 2017

Mr. Andrew Griffith  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Nuclear Energy  
Response to RFI on Private Initiatives to Develop Consolidated  
Spent Fuel Facilities  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Ref: Response to RFI on Private Initiatives to Develop Consolidated SNF Storage Facilities

Dear Mr. Griffith:

URENCO USA, Inc. ("UUSA") appreciates the Department of Energy's ("DOE" or "the Department") outreach with regard to private initiatives for Consolidated Interim Storage in the United States as outlined in the Federal Register of October 27, 2016.

UUSA, Inc. is the corporate parent of Louisiana Energy Services, LLC, the licensee and operator of the nation's only producer of low enriched uranium. Louisiana Energy Services holds a license from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC"), License Number SNM-2010, to construct and operate the UUSA uranium enrichment facility as well as to possess depleted, natural and enriched uranium. This license also allows for interim storage of depleted uranium.

Located in Lea County in southeastern New Mexico, the UUSA enrichment plant began operating in 2010 and reflects an investment of more than \$4.5 billion in U.S. manufacturing. The facility is currently capable of meeting roughly one-third of annual demand for uranium enrichment services from U.S. utilities.

In siting the UUSA facility, URENCO learned first-hand that nuclear projects have the best chance of success when they have strong local support. Before finding a home in Lea County, New Mexico, two other locations for the UUSA plant were initially considered. Those venues, while deemed suitable on technical and licensing grounds, lacked the strong public support that ultimately developed between the company and Lea County, local jurisdictions and the people in the region.

Lea County initially approached URENCO and expressed an interest in discussing potential siting of an enrichment facility in the area. The region had already demonstrated a willingness to consider nuclear-

related projects, as evidenced by the nearby Waste Isolation Pilot Project and Waste Control Specialists (WCS). (WCS is UUSA's immediate, valued neighbor, sharing a fence line adjacent to the New Mexico-Texas state border.) Significantly, URENCO also found a business-friendly attitude that has remained ever present.

While noting the community interest, URENCO also felt that it was important to likewise reach out to local leaders and the people of southeastern New Mexico and west Texas to educate them on our business activities and the type of sustainable project we hoped to build there. This process included not only a series of meetings, but included visits by community leaders to UUSA's sister enrichment facility in the Netherlands.

Having an open and honest dialogue was critical to the project. Our major "lesson learned" for the project is that building and maintaining a base of stakeholder support throughout all phases – from siting, to licensing, to construction and operation – is fundamental. Quite simply, our substantial investment in a new uranium enrichment facility could not have been realized without the significant support evinced by the people of Lea County and surrounding areas. These citizens include our highly-qualified employees (roughly two-thirds of which reside in New Mexico and one-third of which reside in Texas), their families and their friends.

The community's outreach did not stop with UUSA. More than a decade ago, the Lea-Eddy County Alliance was formed to recruit nuclear-related projects to southeastern New Mexico. This unified, regional political body comprises the City of Hobbs, Lea County, the City of Carlsbad and Eddy County. They purchased over 1,000 acres of rural land and conducted in-depth site characterization studies to enable them to actively court nuclear projects – including the interim storage of used fuel. Additionally, in 2008 the Economic Development Corporation of Lea County branded the area as an EnergyPlex to represent the local governments' and residents' support of current and future energy-related ventures in the region. This successful campaign has resulted in the expansion and recruitment of various energy projects to the area.

We believe that the approach of working with an interested and willing community will be just as critical to the Department as it considers options for consolidated interim storage of used nuclear fuel. UUSA would be pleased to further share with DOE the details of our successful partnership with the local community and we welcome you to tour our facility first-hand to discuss our experience and operations. Please do not hesitate to contact me at by email at [Melissa.mann@urencocom](mailto:Melissa.mann@urencocom) or by phone at 703-682-5208 with any questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Mann", is positioned above the typed name.

Melissa Mann  
President