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March 15, 2005

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: USNRC Docket No. 71-9261, TAC L23651  
HI-STAR100 Certificate of Compliance 9261  
HI-STAR License Amendment Request 9261-3  
April 13th Meeting Pertaining to LAR 9261-3

Reference: Holtec Project 5014

Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to request that the meeting between Holtec International and the NRC scheduled for April 13, 2005 be closed to public participation. The reason for this request is that we will be discussing a criticality analysis methodology that was developed exclusively by Holtec International for use in spent fuel transportation package licensing. Public release of the methodology would permit our competitors to use these analytical techniques without absorbing the commensurate costs Holtec has borne to develop them. As required, an affidavit prepared in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 has been executed to provide more specific justification for this request and is attached to this letter.

Please contact me if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stefan Anton  
Licensing Manager

Attachment: Affidavit Pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390

cc: Mr. Meraj Rahimi, USNRC (w/attach.)

Document ID: 5014566

AMSS01

**AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO 10CFR2.390**

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I, Stefan Anton, being duly sworn, depose and state as follows:

- (1) I am Acting Licensing Manager of Holtec International and am familiar with the information described in paragraph (2) which is sought to be withheld from public disclosure, and am authorized to apply for its withholding.
- (2) The information sought to be withheld is discussions pertaining to the Holtec International HI-STAR 100 System transportation package burnup credit (criticality) analysis methodology that will take place in a meeting scheduled for April 13, 2005 at Rockville, MD. The information to be discussed is considered proprietary to Holtec International for reasons discussed below.
- (3) In making this application for withholding of proprietary information of which it is the owner, Holtec International relies upon the exemption from disclosure set forth in the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 USC Sec. 552(b)(4) and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 USC Sec. 1905, and NRC regulations 10CFR Part 9.17(a)(4), 2.390(a)(4), and 2.390(b)(1) for "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential" (Exemption 4). The material for which exemption from disclosure is here sought is all "confidential commercial information", and some portions also qualify under the narrower definition of "trade secret", within the meanings assigned to those terms for purposes of FOIA Exemption 4 in, respectively, Critical Mass Energy Project v. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 975F2d871 (DC Cir. 1992), and Public Citizen Health Research Group v. FDA, 704F2d1280 (DC Cir. 1983).

**AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO 10CFR2.390**

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- (4) Some examples of categories of information which fit into the definition of proprietary information are:
- a. Information that discloses a process, method, or apparatus, including supporting data and analyses, where prevention of its use by Holtec's competitors without license from Holtec International constitutes a competitive economic advantage over other companies;
  - b. Information which, if used by a competitor, would reduce his expenditure of resources or improve his competitive position in the design, manufacture, shipment, installation, assurance of quality, or licensing of a similar product.
  - c. Information which reveals cost or price information, production, capacities, budget levels, or commercial strategies of Holtec International, its customers, or its suppliers;
  - d. Information which reveals aspects of past, present, or future Holtec International customer-funded development plans and programs of potential commercial value to Holtec International;
  - e. Information which discloses patentable subject matter for which it may be desirable to obtain patent protection.

The information sought to be withheld is considered to be proprietary for the reasons set forth in paragraphs 4.a, 4.b, 4.d, and 4.e, above.

- (5) The information sought to be withheld is being discussed with the NRC in confidence. The information (including that compiled from many sources) is of a sort customarily held in confidence by Holtec International, and is in fact so held. The information sought to be withheld has, to the best of my knowledge and belief, consistently been held in confidence by Holtec International. No public disclosure has been made, and it is not available in public sources. All

**AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO 10CFR2.390**

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disclosures to third parties, including any required transmittals to the NRC, have been made, or must be made, pursuant to regulatory provisions or proprietary agreements which provide for maintenance of the information in confidence. Its initial designation as proprietary information, and the subsequent steps taken to prevent its unauthorized disclosure, are as set forth in paragraphs (6) and (7) following.

- (6) Initial approval of proprietary treatment of information is made by the manager of the originating component, the person most likely to be acquainted with the value and sensitivity of the information in relation to industry knowledge. Access to such documents within Holtec International is limited on a "need to know" basis.
- (7) The procedure for approval of external release of such information typically requires review by the staff manager, project manager, principal scientist or other equivalent authority, by the manager of the cognizant marketing function (or his designee), and by the Legal Operation, for technical content, competitive effect, and determination of the accuracy of the proprietary designation. Disclosures outside Holtec International are limited to regulatory bodies, customers, and potential customers, and their agents, suppliers, and licensees, and others with a legitimate need for the information, and then only in accordance with appropriate regulatory provisions or proprietary agreements.
- (8) The information classified as proprietary was developed and compiled by Holtec International at a significant cost to Holtec International. This information is classified as proprietary because it contains detailed descriptions of analytical approaches and methodologies not available elsewhere. This information would provide other parties, including competitors, with information from Holtec International's technical database and the results of evaluations performed by Holtec International. A substantial effort has been expended by Holtec International to develop this information. Release of this information would improve a competitor's position because it would enable Holtec's competitor to copy our technology and offer it for sale in competition with our company, causing us financial injury.

**AFFIDAVIT PURSUANT TO 10CFR2.390**

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- (9) Public disclosure of the information sought to be withheld is likely to cause substantial harm to Holtec International's competitive position and foreclose or reduce the availability of profit-making opportunities. The information is part of Holtec International's comprehensive spent fuel storage technology base, and its commercial value extends beyond the original development cost. The value of the technology base goes beyond the extensive physical database and analytical methodology, and includes development of the expertise to determine and apply the appropriate evaluation process.

The research, development, engineering, and analytical costs comprise a substantial investment of time and money by Holtec International.

The precise value of the expertise to devise an evaluation process and apply the correct analytical methodology is difficult to quantify, but it clearly is substantial.

Holtec International's competitive advantage will be lost if its competitors are able to use the results of the Holtec International experience to normalize or verify their own process or if they are able to claim an equivalent understanding by demonstrating that they can arrive at the same or similar conclusions.

The value of this information to Holtec International would be lost if the information were disclosed to the public. Making such information available to competitors without their having been required to undertake a similar expenditure of resources would unfairly provide competitors with a windfall, and deprive Holtec International of the opportunity to exercise its competitive advantage to seek an adequate return on its large investment in developing these very valuable analytical tools.

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY     )  
  )     ss:  
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON )

Dr. Stefan Anton, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he has read the foregoing affidavit and the matters stated therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.

Executed at Marlton, New Jersey, this 15th day of March, 2005.



Stefan Anton  
Holtec International

Subscribed and sworn before me this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2005.



MARIA C. PEPE  
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY  
My Commission Expires April 25, 2005