

December 19, 2007

Tammy Morin, Licensing Manager
Holtec International
Holtec Center
555 Lincoln Drive West
Marlton, NJ 08053

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF HI-STORM 100U APPLICATION (L24085)

Dear Ms. Morin:

The purpose of this letter is to inform Holtec International (Holtec) of: (1) a change in U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's schedule for reviewing Holtec's Certificate of Compliance (CoC) No. 1014, Amendment 6 (HI-STORM 100U) request; and (2) the need for Holtec to submit an environmental report (ER) to support this application.

By letter dated April 27, 2007, Holtec submitted a request for cask design approval of its HI-STORM 100U design concept under the provisions of 10 CFR 72, Subpart L. The staff has begun its technical review and has now determined that additional information from Holtec may be necessary to demonstrate compliance with the design requirements of Subpart L. The staff is in the process of determining whether to issue this Request for Additional Information (RAI) and if so, plans to issue it in February 2008. The staff previously informed Holtec of this schedule change verbally.

Under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, NRC is required to assess the potential environmental impacts of its actions, such as allowing licensees to use the Holtec HI-STORM 100U system on a generic basis. The staff has determined that its environmental assessment (EA), upon which the finding of no significant impact was made to approve CoC No. 1014, did not consider the potential environmental impacts associated with either the construction of a below grade storage system or the interim storage of spent fuel below grade. The staff will need additional environmental information from Holtec to support its development of an EA for the HI-STORM 100U amendment. The staff's EA will be developed in accordance with the guidance provided in NUREG-1748, *Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated with NMSS Programs*, dated August 2003. Guidance for the development of an applicant environmental report (ER) is also contained in this document (Chapter 6). Thus, Holtec will be requested to submit an ER addressing these impacts prior to any NRC decision on the Holtec HI-STORM 100U application. This request will be made under the provisions of 10 CFR 51.60. Because an RAI, if developed, could impact the content of the ER, the ER should not be developed until any issues associated with the staff's safety evaluation are known. However, we suggest a meeting to discuss this environmental review process at your earliest convenience.

Ms. Morin

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Should you or your staff have any questions related to these matters or wish to meet to discuss them further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 492-3317.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stewart W. Brown, Senior Project Manager
Licensing Branch
Division of Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 72-1014
TAC: L24085

Ms. Morin

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