

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: / /

EDO CONTROL: G20080089  
DOC DT: 01/04/08  
FINAL REPLY:

Kris Singh  
Holtec International

TO:

Chairman Klein

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* GRN \*\*

CRC NO: 08-0070

DESC:

Export of Equipment and Services - Nuclear Fuel  
Cycle (EDATS: SECY-2008-00 )

ROUTING:

Reyes  
Virgilio  
Mallett  
Ash  
Ordaz  
Cyr/Burns  
Doane, OIP

DATE: 02/08/08

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NMSS

Weber

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

For Appropriate Action.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Feb 08, 2008 08:53

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**PAPER NUMBER:** LTR-08-0070 **LOGGING DATE:** 02/07/2008  
**ACTION OFFICE:** EDO

**AUTHOR:** Kris Singh  
**AFFILIATION:** NJ  
**ADDRESSEE:** Dale Klein  
**SUBJECT:** Capital export of equipment and services

**ACTION:** Appropriate  
**DISTRIBUTION:** RF, OIP

**LETTER DATE:** 01/04/2008  
**ACKNOWLEDGED:** No  
**SPECIAL HANDLING:** Made publicly available in ADAMS via EDO/DPC

**NOTES:**  
**FILE LOCATION:** ADAMS

**DATE DUE:** **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20080089



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January 4, 2008

Dr. Dale E. Klein  
Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

Dear Dr. Klein:

I thank you and Congressman Saxton for giving your precious time and for allowing me to verbalize the challenges faced by an American company, typified by Holtec International, in the international marketplace in the nuclear power sector. Holtec is among a dwindling band of U.S. companies that compete in the world marketplace against corporate behemoths owned by foreign governments. We remain the only U.S. exporter of capital equipment and services for the backend of the nuclear fuel cycle. The beleaguered ranks of U.S. suppliers in the commercial nuclear energy marketplace, I humbly submit, is due in no small measure to the uneven playing field that we countenance abroad. We are grateful to our executive branch, particularly the U.S. embassies overseas, which have helped us enormously by demanding transparency and fair play on our behalf, which has been crucial, indeed, indispensable to our continued presence in several foreign countries. Thanks to such support, we are on track to deliver over 1 billion dollars worth of goods and services to our clients abroad in this decade. Most of these exports do not require any interaction with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory commission (NRC). However, many countries, including China, require that the supplier's system be certified in the supplier's country. To my knowledge, America's trade competitors in the nuclear industry, notably France, actively support their exporter's license applications by conducting expeditious reviews. In contrast, USNRC's review protocol makes export items the very last in the review queue. Our foreign competitors know it and loudly advertise America's lack of regulatory support to its exporters to our potential overseas clients. A most unlevel playing field, indeed.

A similar absence of a world view afflicts our efforts to license transformational technologies. Our underground storage technology, widely recognized as the veritable antidote to public concerns in the wake of 9/11, trudges along within the NRC at a snail's pace. Even the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has managed to issue us two patents in the past 37 months since we formally launched the underground system's certification effort! Many of our domestic customers, of course, would like to see it licensed; for some, it is a godsend. Equally important, a significant portion of our marketing opportunities for the underground storage technologies lie

Received SECY/C&R

Date: 2/7/08

Time: 10:05



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## INTERNATIONAL

Dr. Dale E. Klein  
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
 January 4, 2008  
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overseas, where much of the used fuel remains undispositioned. Having the underground technology licensed here in the U.S. will legitimize our offer of this 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to other countries and will place us in a favorable competitive position with respect to our international competitors who continue to peddle obsolescent systems on the strength of their size and political influence.

We view a commanding technical lead over our foreign rivals absolutely essential to compete under heavy geopolitical odds that we increasingly face in many parts of the globe. Without NRC's enthused engagement, our brightest technical innovations will never see the light of the day.

I truly appreciate your sympathetic hearing and your encouraging words. I believe that an expansion of NRC's mission to prioritize review of high value technologies will be critical for the U.S. technology providers to compete in the new world of GNEP and globalized commerce. Broadening the NRC's charter to review applications for export items, likewise, is a national imperative to enable us and other U.S. suppliers to make a meaningful contribution towards ameliorating the trade imbalance.

My visit to Capitol Hill last month was to carry this open message to our lawmakers, who ultimately must provide the necessary funds to the Commission so it does not have to choose between the applications to support domestic reactors and those that enable export. As matters now stand, the Spent Fuel Storage and Transport (SFST) office is too understaffed to handle even the domestic work load. Your ongoing efforts to provide additional resources to SFST will be vital to meet our need.

Sincerely,

Kris Singh, Ph.D., PE  
 President and CEO  
 Holtec International

Cc: Congressman Tim Murphy  
 Congressman Jim Saxton  
 Mr. E. William Brach, USNRC  
 Mr. Michael Weber, USNRC