



January 20, 2016

E-44250

Mr. Mark Lombard  
Acting Deputy Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

**Subject: Confidentiality Request; AREVA Inc.**

Dear Director Lombard:

We appreciated the opportunity to attend the pre-application meeting on December 9, 2015, pertaining to Holtec and the proposed Consolidated Interim Storage Facility ("CISF") in New Mexico (the "Subject Application").

As several persons noted during the meeting, it appears it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to amend the HI-STORM UMAX certificate to license AREVA canisters for ultimate use at that proposed CISF, unless Holtec or other license applicants are given access to confidential, proprietary, trade secret information of AREVA regarding any of its canisters or casks.

As a follow-up to that meeting, AREVA wanted to take this opportunity to communicate to the NRC the importance to AREVA of the NRC continuing with the processes and procedures it has in place to ensure that no AREVA trade secret proprietary information regarding the above be disclosed to Holtec or other parties in connection with the Subject Application, or be relied upon or utilized by NRC in connection with consideration of such Subject Application, including reliance on any knowledge NRC staff may be able to recall from memory.

The AREVA information on the above matters remains proprietary, confidential, trade secret, information to AREVA, and AREVA has not disclosed it or released it to the public or authorized it to be released by any of our clients or former clients. Unauthorized release or reliance on such information would cause AREVA significant competitive harm. If, at some time in the future, AREVA agrees to authorize such a release, AREVA plans to inform the NRC of that agreement.

Again, we appreciated the opportunity to attend the December 9 meeting, and we are sure NRC will understand the sensitivity to AREVA of protecting its proprietary, trade secret, information.

If there should be any questions, or should NRC desire elaboration on what information is considered proprietary, trade secret, information, please contact me at (410) 910-6830 or by email at [michael.mcmahon@areva.com](mailto:michael.mcmahon@areva.com) and we will be pleased to respond promptly.

Sincerely,

Michael V. McMahon  
Project Director  
WCS Commercial Interim Storage Facility  
AREVA TN

**AREVA TN**

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cc:

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AREVA Project File