NRC to Hold Public Meetings in New Mexico on Proposed Holtec Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Facility

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on the scope of its environmental review of Holtec International’s application for a license to construct and operate a consolidated interim spent fuel storage facility in Lea County, N.M. NRC staff will hold a series of public meetings in late April and early May to describe the review process and take public comments.

Holtec submitted its application on March 30, 2017. The company intends initially to store 500 canisters holding approximately 8,680 metric tons of spent fuel, and eventually to store up to 10,000 canisters. The NRC formally docketed the application Feb. 28, and published a Federal Register notice March 30 requesting public comments on the scope of its environmental review. Comments will be accepted through May 29. A separate notice about the public meetings was published on April 6.

The first “scoping” meeting will be held on April 25 at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Md., from 7-9 p.m., Eastern Time. There will also be a webinar so people unable to attend in person may follow the meeting. Meeting and webinar details are available here.

NRC staff will also hold three meetings in New Mexico. The first will be an open house and poster session on April 30 from 4-7 p.m., Mountain Time at the Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell, Campus Union Building, Multi-Purpose Room 110, 48 University Blvd., in Roswell. The other two meetings will be full scoping meetings, on May 1 from 7-10 p.m., Mountain Time at the Lea County Event Center, 5101 N. Lovingston Highway, in Hobbs, and on May 3 from 7-10 p.m., at the Eddy County Fire Service, 1400 Commerce Dr., in Carlsbad. NRC staff members will hold an open house one hour before each of the Hobbs and Carlsbad meetings to meet informally with members of the public. A court reporter will be available to record comments at all locations, and Spanish-speaking staff will be available at the New Mexico meetings to assist with translation.