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Holtec International HI-STORE Consolidated Interim Storage Facility Project

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Holtec International HI-STORE Consolidated Interim Storage Facility Project

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General Comment

Dear NRC,

I am enraged to hear that NM continues to be targeted by the nuclear industry as its dump of choice for nuclear waste, this time HIGH LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE, which two companies are vying to store in "interim" storage facilities (as if there is any other kind of storage facility for this permanent poison unlike any other kind known to nature). Have you never heard of the term Environmental Racism? How do you think NM got chosen for this horrible distinction? NO ONE wants this waste in their backyard; just because there are fewer of us here, mostly brown, does not mean that our lives are less valuable. Since overt racism seems to be the order of the day in our great nation I do not suppose that this argument will carry any weight yet I feel compelled to voice it.

Recent history proves that there is no failsafe way to transport or store even low level nuclear waste. Due to the overwhelmingly high stakes no errors are affordable. The safeR alternatives for storage that have been identified by nuclear scientists are ignored. Please read this article in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists: <https://thebulletin.org/pushing-storage-horse-nuclear-waste-cart-spent-fuel-pool-problem11002>

See:

<http://www.lutins.org/nukes.html>

July 2000

Wildfires in the vicinity of the Hanford site hit the highly radioactive "B/C" waste disposal trenches, raising airborne plutonium radiation levels in the nearby cities of Pasco and Richland to 1,000 above normal. Wildfires also threatened the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico and the DOE's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. In the latter case, the fires closely approached large amounts of stored radioactive waste and forced the evacuation of 1,800 workers.

9 May 2013

Scientific American reported that 60 of 177 onsite underground tanks were found to be leaking. Controversy surrounding the project, run by contractor Bechtel National, Inc. led to the resignation of Chief project engineer Gary Brunson, while whistleblower complaints (alleging that safety concerns were suppressed by Bechtel) were filed by Nuclear and Environmental Safety Manager Donna Busche and former Deputy Chief Process Engineer Walter Tamosaitis.

9 May 2017

A portion of a tunnel used to store highly radioactive chemical waste and irradiated equipment collapsed, resulting in temporary evacuation of the site.

8 June 2017

At least 11 workers tested positive for internal exposure to plutonium following demolition activities, and radioactive particles were found well beyond the demolition zones where they were supposed to be contained. Department of Energy officials initially claimed that "workers were not at risk", but investigative journalism revealed internal memos from the contractor detailing the exposure. An evaluation report released by contractor CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Co. in December 2017 identified failure of onsite air monitors and incorrect use of a "fixative" to contain radiation as contributors to the contamination.

YOUR PERSONAL CAREER SUCCESS and the bloated wealth of the owners of the nuclear industry has depended on playing roulette with the health of all people and our planet. You have somehow numbed yourself to the harm already done and the unimaginable harm that could easily result from your continued endorsement of the nuclear industry as somehow viable. Do you somehow think that American workers are less error prone than the Japanese, whose culture is far more scrupulous than ours? How do you avoid thinking about Fukushima? We have to completely end this hideous industry, I don't care how many rich idiots weep.