

Commenting on the Scope of the EIS

How to Comment on the Scope of the NRC's Environmental Impact Statement for a Proposed Consolidated Interim Storage Facility for Spent Nuclear Fuel in Lea County, New Mexico

The NRC is conducting its environmental review for a proposed Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) for spent nuclear fuel in Lea County, New Mexico in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The NRC is evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the proposed facility, which will be documented in an environmental impact statement (EIS). The NRC is requesting public comments on the scope and content of this EIS.

Why is NRC requesting comments?

The NRC announced its intent to conduct scoping and prepare the EIS on March 30, 2018, and seeks public input on the scope of the EIS. The NRC's announcement can be found at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2018/18-011.pdf>. The scoping process is intended to: (i) define the proposed action for the EIS; (ii) determine the scope of the EIS and identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth; (iii) identify and eliminate from detailed study issues which are peripheral, are not significant, or which have been covered by prior environmental review; and (iv) identify other environmental review and consultation requirements related to the proposed action.

What kind of input is NRC looking for?

The NRC typically includes the following environmental resources in its environmental reviews: air quality, water quality, ecological resources, historic and cultural resources, land use, transportation, soil and geology, socioeconomics and environmental justice, public and occupational health, noise, visual and scenic resources, and waste management.

The NRC is requesting information and input specific to this proposed facility regarding what should be included or excluded from the scope of the EIS. Some examples of information NRC is requesting are:

- What issues are most important to analyze in detail in the EIS, and why?
- What reasonable alternatives to the proposed action should be analyzed, and why?
- What site-specific characteristics should be considered in the environmental analysis?
- What local sources of information should the NRC consider? (Examples include local information about subsistence living, important site features, etc.)
- What kind of information should NRC consider with regard to historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project?
- What issues or alternatives should be eliminated from detailed consideration, and why?

Where can I find information about the NRC's review?

The NRC has set up a public webpage for Holtec's application for the CISF at <https://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/cis/holtec-international.html>. The webpage contains links to the Holtec application, the NRC's request for supplemental information and Holtec's responses, and the NRC's letter to Holtec accepting the application for detailed review. The NRC will periodically update the webpage with additional information as its review progresses.

What are the next steps?

After the close of the scoping period, the NRC staff will collect all comments submitted, organize them according to subject, and summarize the input received. The staff will then issue a scoping summary report that provides a concise summary of the NRC's conclusions regarding the scope and content of the EIS, including the significant issues identified. The report will be distributed to participants in the scoping process and made available on the NRC's webpage for the Holtec application.

Next, the NRC will then take the following steps in its EIS process:

- The NRC will continue preparing the EIS with consideration of the scoping comments.
- The NRC will publish the EIS in draft form for public review and comment.
- The NRC will revise the draft EIS, as appropriate, based on the comments received.
- The NRC will publish a final EIS and make it publicly available.

In parallel to the EIS process, the NRC also is conducting a detailed safety review. The results of that review will be documented in a safety evaluation report. The NRC will make its licensing decision on Holtec's application based on the results of both the safety review and the environmental review.

How can I submit my comments?

The NRC is accepting comments in the following ways:

Post comments to the Federal Rulemaking Website: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for documents filed under Docket ID NRC-2018-0052. Click on the comment icon and complete the web form.

Mail comments to: May Ma, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Comment at a public meeting: Attendees are invited to speak comments on the record at public scoping meetings (transcriptions are publicly available). (To see the public meeting schedule, visit <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg>)

Remember to include Docket ID NRC-2018-0052 in written comments.

Scoping comments should be submitted by May 29th, 2018, to ensure consideration. All comments are considered equally, regardless of how they are submitted