

Holtec-CISFEISCEm Resource

From: Gene Harbaugh <gene.harbaugh@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 3, 2018 4:21 PM
To: Holtec-CISFEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender]
Attachments: Holtec Carlsbad.docx

My comments on the Holtec proposal are attached. Gene Harbaugh

Federal Register Notice: 83FR13802
Comment Number: 1

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Subject: [External_Sender]
Sent Date: 5/3/2018 4:20:47 PM
Received Date: 5/3/2018 4:20:51 PM
From: Gene Harbaugh

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Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE	62	5/3/2018 4:20:51 PM
Holtec Carlsbad.docx	15013	

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Priority: Standard
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May 3, 2018

Regarding: NRC Scoping Hearing on the Holtec Temporary Nuclear Waste Storage proposal

From: Gene Harbaugh, 601 East Orchard, Carlsbad, NM

Carlsbad, New Mexico

I appreciate the opportunity to address members of the NRC Scoping Hearing. My name is Gene Harbaugh. I am a retired Presbyterian minister who has lived in Carlsbad for 32 years. I live approximately 300 yards from a rail road switching yard, which is just one reason that I have a vital concern regarding the Holtec proposal. I do not consent to the approval of a license for Holtec for the following reasons:

- 1) The proposal and design are for a temporary or interim storage facility, and even though careful attention has been given to designing canisters, the fact that the proposal is for temporary storage just below the surface is a fatal flaw. Until a permanent repository is authorized by Congress it is counter intuitive to move radioactive material around the country.
- 2) The prospect of shipping radioactive fuel rods by rail represents a cause for great concern. Rail infrastructure is fragile and constantly under maintenance. Moving stock is often left at sidings. In order to bring waste from commercial reactors thousands of small and large communities will be exposed to the prospect of an accident.
- 3) The design in questions is a request from an independent corporation to handle shipments and insure security. In Carlsbad, NM, we have had experience with private corporations and safety issues. A company which operated a brine well went bankrupt and abandon the well which eventually eroded and created a crater under US highway 285 said to be nearly 600 feet deep. In the aftermath city, county and state entities are left will millions of dollars in remedial repair. If there is to be a national repository for nuclear waste, the federal government, not a private company should be responsible for the conducting the entire project from design to securing of the site since this is a responsibility that will extend for hundreds and perhaps thousands of years.

- 4) It is disingenuous to suggest that the proposed storage will be temporary when there is, as yet, no permanent site for nuclear waste.
- 5) Holtec is obviously motivated by a profit motive to invest in this plan. However, little attention has been given to the negative economic and environmental impact such a project would have on southeastern New Mexico communities. Our community has yet to see information that has been gathered regarding the impact on tourism, retirement, farming and ranching, and the oil, mining and dairy industries of the area. While a few concerns might benefit, the long term economic outcome would seem to be negative.
- 6) Finally, I would congratulate the Eddy-Lea Alliance on the effective way in which this project has been concealed from public view. Due to the fact that Carlsbad has only one community newspaper, which has declined dramatically in circulation and is published in El Paso, Texas, and has no effective network for public communication, the project is virtually unknown to the citizen of our community. It will be a revelation to the local populace should this license be approved by the NRC, but of course then it will be too late for anyone to object.