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Holtec International HI-STORE Consolidated Interim Storage Facility Project

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General Comment

My name is Martin Kral and I live in Roswell, NM. I have been following the ELEA/Holtec relationship regarding the Consolidated Interim Storage Facility east of Carlsbad, NM for several years. While everyone seems to be focused on the safe transfer and storage technology, that is not really an issue here in New Mexico. Most everyone in the scoping meetings have agreed that the SNF is safely stored at all the existing nuclear power plant sites and that nuclear waste transfer to WIPP has been very safe also. I haven't been able to figure out the technical reasons for not allowing SNF to be transferred and stored in New Mexico. There isn't any technical reason - period.

With the recent decommissioning of nuclear power plants in the US and a number of shutters pending, there is going to be even a greater need to locate SNF at an interim location before final destination. Holtec is investing a lot of money into a new system that will accelerate the decommissioning of shutter NPP with a system where they will be able to decommission in half the time it takes today. This new system is dependent on the availability of an interim storage facility. This new decommissioning system will save the DOE/NRC billions of dollars in addition to the billions that would be save by providing an interim storage facility until Yucca Mountain is licensed.

The new advanced fast spectrum reactors will eventually become an option to consume the SNF once they are commercialized. These new reactors will reduce waste actinides to a mere few pounds.

I would prefer the Holtec Hi-Store CIS in New Mexico over the competitive site at WCS in West Texas.