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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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Submitter Information

Name: Susan Selbin
Address:
2209 Via Granada Pl. NW
Albuquerque, NM, 87104
Email: sselbin@hotmail.com

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General Comment

I oppose the consolidation of nuclear waste because it creates a high security risk for terrorists whether home grown or from other countries. The need for consolidated High level nuclear waste is a public relations campaign motivated for profit at many levels. Near site storage reducing transport risk across the country is being dismissed. I've heard that there is already talk about bringing some of Europe's waste to the site. We can't let any of this happen.

The health risks for residents is great!. The continual cancers and changes in the genetic structures have impacted New Mexico especially in:

- > Eunice, Hobbs, and Carlsbad(WIPP(low level nuclear waste storage) and Urenco(commercial nuclear processing and manufacturing established more recently)
- >Northern New Mexico, Cibola County parts of McKinley County and the Dine of Navajo Nation(WWII related as well as mining for nuclear reactors.) The mining companies never informed residents of the health impacts of mining.
- >In addition, we have "Downwinders" from the Trinity site and other testing atom bomb testing areas (including Nevada,)receiving radioactivity from testing creating deaths, constant cancers , medical costs creating impoverished families and areas.

The Southern New Mexico area is already impacted by the WIPP site and the uranium processing plant run by

Urenco. Children are experiencing cancers and immune disorders like lupus at very early age. Southern New Mexico has one of the highest cancer rates in New Mexico.

Adding this proposed Consolidated Storage Site , will add to the amount of radiation and in the area which will add to the level of radiation illness people will experience. The Holtec economic development project does not consider the health impact on people increases in medical problems , and costs or the impact on other economies in the area that support state services for people.

Additionally, the site is geographically inappropriate located in the Permian Basin(with karst formations, caves, bottomless lakes, brine and soft shell formations) where there is extensive vertical and horizontal drilling, nor the potential impact on food products, including dairies and ranches grown in the Pecos Valley. These are #1 and #2 in contributing to the state revenues.

The impact of winds carrying radiation is very high. Winds from that areas go to all parts of the state. Those wanting organic food products are certainly going to shun products from radioactive areas. Why destroy are Southern agricultural area also. Why repeat the same mistake?

1. It should be noted that the responsibility for the waste should be the utility companies who created the waste. Much of the industry wants to hide the waste in New Mexico, so the can begin again in the urban areas. Nuclear power is very expensive since the infrastructure requires extensive support. The production is not carbon free and the myth needs to be carefully examined.

2. The industry has a habit of hiding the impact of mining and nuclear reactors in disproportionately high none-white areas of the country. The value of people in rural areas are as important as those in urban areas. Why repeat this process??

3. In northern New Mexico uranium mining has devastated the northern area of NN destroying an area once able to sustain itself through farming of corn, beans and squash. Why repeat this process in Southern New Mexico ? The process started in the 40's with the development of the atom bomb and continued for supplying of uranium for Nuclear reactors. Reservations were targeted for mining activities.

3. New Mexico ratepayers did not create the Nuclear Waste nor did it get the profits from the electricity or the jobs. There is no connection between this high level nuclear waste and the people of New Mexico. The moral issue is why New Mexico should feel responsible for relieving the highly populated urban areas from taking responsibility for generating such dangerous waste. Why are their lives more valuable than people in rural areas? This sends a distinct message that urban lives are more valuable than rural lives.

We need to recognize the direct impact of radiation on the lives of human beings and create solutions that eliminate this source of electricity.