

Holtec-CISFEISCEm Resource

From: Walter Gerstle <gerstle@unm.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 11:26 AM
To: Holtec-CISFEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] Letter regarding the Holtec International project to store spent nuclear fuel near ground level
Attachments: Holtec Letter.pdf

To Whom It May Concern at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

I would like to submit, for your consideration, the attached letter regarding the Holtec International project to store spent nuclear fuel near ground level.

Please confirm receipt.

Sincerely,

Walter

Walter Gerstle, Professor, Ph.D., P.E.

1709 Neat Lane SW

Albuquerque, NM 87105

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Email : gerstle@unm.edu

Federal Register Notice: 83FR13802
Comment Number: 101

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Subject: [External_Sender] Letter regarding the Holtec International project to store spent nuclear fuel near ground level
Sent Date: 6/12/2018 11:26:09 AM
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From: Walter Gerstle

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MESSAGE	467	6/12/2018 11:26:16 AM
Holtec Letter.pdf	27880	

Options
Priority: Standard
Return Notification: No
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Sensitivity: Normal
Expiration Date:
Recipients Received:

Walter Gerstle
Registered Professional Engineer

June 12, 2018

To: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Re: Holtec International project to store spent nuclear fuel near ground level

To Whom It May Concern at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

I oppose the plan of Holtec International to store spent nuclear fuel near the ground surface in the Carlsbad-Hobbs area of southern New Mexico. Temporary storage of nuclear waste that will remain radioactive for thousands of years is not a safe engineering solution to the storage of nuclear waste. Either the waste should be permanently and safely stored, or we should not generate the waste to begin with. By allowing temporary storage of nuclear waste, we allow more waste to accumulate, and this waste will be a major problem for future generations.

New Mexico history, from the development and testing of nuclear bombs at Los Alamos and at the Trinity site, to the mining of uranium near Grants, to the contamination of water at Los Alamos and at Sandia National Laboratories, to major problems with the WIPP facility, has shown our inability to handle safely hazardous and radioactive materials.

The government, rather than private companies, should administer nuclear storage. Private companies such as Holtec prioritize their economic interests and the interests of their stockholders over other values, including environmental stewardship and public safety. To store nuclear material with long radioactive half-lives, we must have the assurance that the agency storing it will be in operation in perpetuity, something that private companies simply cannot assure. New Mexico has paid a high price when mining companies have gone out of business and left environmental destruction in their wake. Holtec will likely do the same.

To summarize, the Holtec International project to store spent nuclear fuel near ground level is ill conceived, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission should not permit it.

Sincerely,



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