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Comments on proposed storage of spent nuclear rods in SE New Mexico

Transportation of this nuclear waste is dangerous and unnecessary. The waste should remain at or near the reactors where it is produced and currently safely stored. Transporting the nuclear waste creates opportunities for dangerous accidents that could impact large numbers of people and wide geographic areas, costing many millions of dollars to clean up. It also creates dangerous opportunities for terrorist activity. The Holtec facility is being labeled temporary storage, but our nation has a very poor record of finding a permanent place to store nuclear waste. It seems likely that this facility would end up becoming the de facto permanent storage area.

Southeast New Mexico is experiencing an oil boom as hydraulic fracturing technology opens up new sources of oil. The result of this boom is increased seismic activity. Certainly an area prone to earthquakes is not a good place to store nuclear waste. Farmers and ranchers do not want their crops or livestock exposed to radiation, which could cost them their livelihoods.

New Mexico should not be a dumping ground for the nation's nuclear waste. Every state that benefits from nuclear power should bear responsibility in dealing with the spent rods.

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