

Holtec International wants the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to let them build a massive high-level radioactive waste storage facility between WIPP and Hobbs New Mexico. This waste would be reprocessing wastes and spent fuel rods from every commercial reactor in the country. Since almost all the reactors are in the East, trains would bring in waste from nuclear reactors around the country for 20 years.

Transportation of high level waste (HLW) on this scale has never been done before and is extremely dangerous and expensive—especially since the entire rail system would have to be rebuilt to carry the enormous weight of the HLW casks. There are also questions about the safety of the thin-walled casks themselves.

Since there is currently no disposal facility for this waste, would this "storage" site end up being a disposal site? Or will this waste eventually end up in WIPP? (NMED currently has five modifications to the WIPP permit in play, including modifications for it to receive high level waste and to increase its size and the amount of waste it can receive.

To the NRC: WE DO NOT CONSENT to the risks and dangers from this facility. Without a final disposal facility it is premature to transport tens of thousands of fuel rods to New Mexico. This is an irresponsible and poorly thought-out plan with too many dangers to communities both along the transportation routes and in New Mexico. **Deny Holtec their license to store this waste right now!**

5/22/18 PWS
NRC-208-0052



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