

May Ma
Office of Administration
Mail Stop: TWFN-7- A60M
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

RE: Docket ID NRC-2018-0052; Holtec International's HI-STORE Spent Fuel Waste Facility

Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

I am extremely concerned about the Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS) facility proposed by Holtec International to store up to 100,000 metric tons of high-level radioactive waste in southeast New Mexico. I respectfully submit the following comments regarding the proposal itself and the scope of the Environmental Review and analysis for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

I am submitting these comments because I do not consent to New Mexico becoming a national dumping ground for "spent fuel" from every nuclear reactor in the country. I do not consent to transporting up to 10,000 canisters of highly radioactive waste through communities nationwide. I do not consent to the risk of contamination of our lands, aquifers, air, or the health of our people, plants, wildlife, and livestock. I do not consent to endangering present and future generations.

I formally request additional Public Scoping Meetings for other communities throughout the United States (U.S.) that will be impacted by the transport of these waste canisters.

This Holtec Proposal Is Contrary To Current Law

- Current law only allows the U.S. Department of Energy to take title to commercial spent fuel "following commencement of operation of a repository" or at a DOE-owned and operated monitored retrievable storage facility. The Holtec site meets neither requirement, as it is a private facility.

Holtec Must Remove Copyrights And All Redactions In The Environmental Report (ER)

- NRC must require Holtec to produce an ER that has no such copyright restrictions and has no redactions. It is impossible to make recommendations on the scope of analyses of these redacted areas of the ER for the EIS.

The Impacts Of Permanent Storage Must Be Analyzed

- The ER is incomplete because it does not analyze the impacts of the spent fuel being left at the Holtec site indefinitely. The EIS needs to include an analysis of the impacts of permanent storage should the CIS facility become a de facto permanent waste site.

More Alternatives Must Be Analyzed

- The high-level radioactive waste is too dangerous to move and can remain on site for many more years. It should not be moved until all alternatives are analyzed, including keeping the waste where it is in some form of Hardened On Site Storage (HOSS) on the reactor sites or at suitable locations as close to the reactors as possible to minimize transport risks.
- The alternative of consolidated storage at an existing licensed Independent Spent Fuel Storage Facility (ISFSI) must also be analyzed.

All Transportation Routes And Risks Must Be Analyzed

- The EIS must include all possible transportation routes and study the potential impacts from accidents, terrorism incidents, and how new rail lines or roads for waste shipments will impact public health, environment, water sources, flora, fauna (especially any endangered species), and occupational safety along these routes.

The Consequences To An Accident-Exposed Individual Must Be Analyzed

- Terms like “collective dose risk” and “person-rem” are used to ignore the potential impacts to a single individual.
- All possible human exposures from routine and accidental radioactive releases during transport and at the site must be clearly defined in plain language, for individuals near waste on occasion and workers who are transporting or working at the CIS site long-term.

Cracked And Leaking Canisters Must Be Addressed

- The ER does not analyze exactly how radioactive waste from a cracked and leaking canister would be handled, since there is no wet pool or hot cell at the site. The EIS must include how cracked and leaking canisters will be handled onsite and during transport and analyze possible environmental impacts if leaks or spills occur from cracked canisters.

More Cumulative Impacts Must Be Analyzed

- The ER mentions the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) but does not analyze the impacts of a radiologic release from WIPP on the proposed CIS site.
- The impacts from WIPP and possible impacts from and to the local oil and gas industries need to be analyzed and included in the EIS.

Seismic Impacts On Stored Casks Must Be Stated

- Although the ER gives a statement on recent seismic activity in the area, there is no analysis of what fracking-induced earthquakes will have on the buried casks. These impacts need to be analyzed and included in the EIS.

Future Electrical Transmission Lines and Plumbing Infrastructure Must Be Analyzed

- Impacts from new electrical lines and plumbing must be included in EIS.

Economic Impacts Must Be Analyzed For The Different Phases Of The Project


- The economic impacts must be studied and clearly state any positive or negative impacts from this site: initially, after construction is complete, and throughout the whole 120 years.
- How many jobs will be created? How many are only temporary and how many are permanent? How many will go to local residents?

A Thorough Environmental Justice (EJ) Analysis Must Be Included In The EIS

- Impacts to EJ communities near the site and along transport routes must be studied, including but not limited to economic and health impacts that are specific to lower income and people of color communities. For indigenous populations located near the site or along transport routes, this EJ analysis must include impacts to culturally important natural resources, such as: sacred places, traditional food sources, and traditional medical plants.

THANK YOU FOR HAVING A CONSCIENCE + PROTECTING NEW MEXICO + ALL THOSE ON TRANSPORT ROUTES + WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE BE DESTRUCTIVELY AFFECTED NOW + IN GENERATIONS TO COME.

Sincerely,

Signature  Date 8/1/2018

Name (Print) ESME VAANDRAGER

City & State ALBUQUERQUE, NM