

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 13, 2018



Ms. Diane Curran, Esq.
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Washington, DC 20036

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR A 90-DAY EXTENSION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING PERIOD FOR HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL'S PROPOSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM SPENT FUEL STORAGE FACILITY LICENSE IN LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO (DOCKET NUMBER: 72-1051)

Dear Ms. Curran:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated June 13, 2018, requesting a 90-day extension of the environmental scoping period for Holtec International's proposed Consolidated Interim Storage Facility review due to issues with the Federal Rulemaking website (<http://www.regulations.gov>).

The NRC's environmental scoping period began on March 30, 2018, with the publication of a *Federal Register* (FR) notice of intent to conduct scoping (83 FR 13802). The scoping comment period was originally noticed for 60 days. Initially, the NRC staff provided the following three methods for submittal of public comments: 1) verbally at one of the transcribed public scoping meetings; 2) hardcopy via regular U.S. mail or hand delivery at one of the scoping meetings; or 3) electronically using the Federal Rulemaking website. Following requests from the public, the NRC extended the comment period by an additional 60 days until July 30, 2018, and provided another method for comment submittal in the form of an email address at Holtec-CISFEIS@nrc.gov (83 FR 22714). Since the beginning of the scoping period, the NRC has conducted a total of six scoping meetings and has received hundreds of comments during those meetings and by the methods discussed above.

In your letter, dated June 13, 2018, you indicated that members of the public had difficulty using the Federal Rulemaking website between April and June of 2018. The Federal Rulemaking website is part of the Federal Docket Management System, and is supported by 41 Federal agencies including the NRC. It is not managed by the NRC. In response to your letter, the NRC staff verified that the Federal Rulemaking website was operating properly during the scoping comment period. The NRC staff contacted the Federal Rulemaking website help desk and confirmed that there were no reported concerns from members of the public regarding the inoperability of the website during the scoping period. Please note that the Federal Rulemaking website provides users with a help desk number for assistance and contains a notice advising users that certain browser plug-ins or extensions may interfere with a comment submittal.

The six scoping meetings, along with the 120-day scoping period, and the four methods to submit comments, provide meaningful and ample opportunities for members of the public to submit their comments, while allowing the NRC to make timely regulatory decisions. Therefore, the staff is not planning to further extend the comment period.

If you would like to discuss any of these matters, please contact Ms. Jill Caverly, Environmental Project Manager, by telephone at 301-412-7674 or via email at Jill.Caverly@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Craig G. Erlanger, Director
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards,
and Environmental Review
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 72-1051

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DATED: July 13, 2018

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***via email**

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DATE	07/12/2018	07/12/2018		07/13/2018

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