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

March 11, 2020

Mr. Reid Nelson, Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001-2637

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
            STATEMENT FOR HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL'S CONSOLIDATED INTERIM
            STORAGE FACILITY LOCATED IN LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO FOR PUBLIC
            COMMENT (DOCKET NUMBER: 72-1051)

Dear Mr. Nelson:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed the draft Environmental
Impact Statement (DEIS) for construction and operation of Holtec International's (Holtec)
consolidated interim storage facility (CISF). The proposed CISF would be located in Lea
County, New Mexico. As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC staff has prepared a
DEIS that includes analyses of potential impacts to historic properties from construction and
operation of the CISF. The NRC staff will use the National Environmental Policy Act process to
comply with its obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966,
as amended (NHPA), as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8(c).

As discussed in Chapter 4 of the DEIS, the NRC has determined that the construction and
operation of the CISF would not adversely affect historic properties near the site. In support of
this determination, the NRC staff conducted a site visit, reviewed available archaeological
literature, conducted a search and evaluation of archaeological records and collections
maintained by the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (NM SHPO) and U.S. Bureau
of Land Management. Documentation of tribal consultation is presented in Appendix A of the
DEIS. The updated Class III Report, along with the NRC staff recommendations, will be
submitted to the NM SHPO for concurrence prior to finalization of the DEIS. While consultation
under NHPA Section 106 is ongoing, the NRC staff's preliminary conclusion is that no historic
properties would be affected by the proposed action.

A copy of the DEIS is available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and
Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at
http://www.nrc.gov/readingrm/adams.html. The ADAMS accession number for the DEIS is
ML20069G420. If you prefer a CD or hard copy of the DEIS, please let us know.

A separate Notice of Availability of the DEIS will be placed in the *Federal Register* through the
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The comment period will end on May 22, 2020.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8(c), we are requesting comments on the DEIS and preliminary conclusions. Electronic comments on the DEIS may be submitted to the NRC by accessing https://www.regulations.gov/ and searching for Docket ID NRC-2018-0052. Written comments should be submitted by mail to the NRC at:

> ATTN: Program Management, Announcements
>   and Editing Staff
> Office of Administration
> Mail Stop: TWFN-7A60M
> U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
> Washington, DC 20555-0001

Comments should be submitted by May 22, 2020. Should you have any questions concerning the staff's environmental review of Holtec's application for construction and operation of a consolidated interim storage facility, please contact Ms. Jill Caverly at 301-415-7674 or via e-mail at Jill.Caverly@nrc.gov.

> Sincerely,
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> **/RA/**
>
> Cinthya I. Román, Chief
> Environmental Review Materials Branch
> Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,
>   and Financial Support
> Office of Nuclear Material Safety
>   and Safeguards

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DATED: March 11, 2020

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