



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

March 11, 2020

Mr. Raye Miller  
Mayor of Artesia  
511 W. Texas Ave.  
Artesia, NM 88210

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

Dear Mr. Miller:

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 NRC staff has prepared a *Federal Register* (FR) Notice of Availability to advise the public that the DEIS is publicly available at the NRC's public document room or from 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. In addition, the DEIS will be available to the public at the following locations: Carlsbad Public Library, 101 S. Halagueno Street, Carlsbad, NM 88220; Hobbs Public Library, 509 N Shipp St., Hobbs, NM 88240; and Roswell Public Library, 301 N. Pennsylvania, Roswell, NM 88201.

As discussed in Chapter 2 of the DEIS, the NRC staff's preliminary recommendation is issuance of an NRC license to Holtec to construct and operate a CISF for spent nuclear fuel at the proposed location. In addition, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a cooperating agency on the DEIS. The BLM staff recommends the issuance of a permit to construct and operate the rail spur. This recommendation is based on (i) the license application, which includes the Environmental Report and supplemental documents, and Holtec's responses to the NRC staff's requests for additional information; (ii) consultation with Federal, State, Tribal, local agencies, and input from other stakeholders; (iii) independent NRC and BLM staff review; and (iv) the assessments provided in the EIS.

A separate Notice of Availability of the DEIS will be placed in the *FR* through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, beginning the 60-day public comment period. The comment period will end on May 22, 2020.

Should you have any questions concerning the staff's environmental review of Holtec's application for construction and operation of a CISF, please contact Ms. Jill Caverly at 301-415-7674 or via e-mail at [Jill.Caverly@nrc.gov](mailto:Jill.Caverly@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Cintha I. Román, Chief  
Environmental Review Materials Branch  
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,  
and Financial Support  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Docket No. 72-1051

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**Dated: March 11, 2020**

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