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NRC Seeks Public Comment on Draft Environmental Report for Proposed Spent Fuel Storage Facility in New Mexico

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is seeking public comment on its draft [environmental impact statement](#) for Holtec International's application for a license to construct and operate a consolidated spent nuclear fuel storage facility in Lea County, N.M. The draft report concludes that the environmental impacts of the project would not preclude granting Holtec a license.

Details on how to submit comments in writing will be published soon in the *Federal Register*. Publication of that notice will begin the public comment period, which will run for 60 days. The NRC staff is planning several public meetings in New Mexico during the comment period. Dates and venues for those meetings will be included in a separate *Federal Register* notice and on the NRC's [Public Meetings](#) webpage.

Holtec proposes initially to store 500 canisters holding approximately 8,680 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel and eventually to store up to 10,000 canisters. The canisters would be transported by rail from operating decommissioning, and decommissioned commercial nuclear power plants around the country.

The NRC's EIS assesses the environmental impacts of the entire project, from construction to decommissioning. It looked at the impacts to land use, transportation, geology and soils, surface waters and wetlands, groundwater, ecological resources, historic and cultural resources, environmental justice and several other areas.

NRC staff will review the public comments and prepare the final EIS. That document is scheduled to be published in March 2021. A parallel technical safety review of the application is scheduled to be completed with a Safety Evaluation Report to be published also in March 2021. A decision on whether to grant the license would follow thereafter.