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Holtec International HI-STORE Consolidated Interim Storage Facility Project

Comment On: NRC-2018-0052-0300

Holtec International HI-STORE Consolidated Interim Storage Facility Project

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General Comment

NRC-2018-0052 Reason six: BNSF completely rebuilt the rail line between Clovis and Carlsbad, including safe crossings.

While the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) is not included in the DEIS for HI-STORE CISF, it is very important to discuss because the railroad line breaches several towns between the rail hub of Clovis New Mexico and Carlsbad NM. I live one mile from the rail line that goes directly through the center of Roswell, NM.

The folks in Roswell have lived with this train line for decades and all the train activity; hauling fracking sand to the Permian Basin south of Carlsbad, hauling extracted basalt from the mines east of Carlsbad and of course, the toxic materials coming out of the oil refinery in Artesia, daily, day and night. The farming/ranching and construction industries also benefited from the railroad.

In 2019, BNSF invested tens of millions in upgrading the rail line from Clovis to Carlsbad, which included many trusses and road crossings. This investment was part of a BNSF multi-billion-dollar upgrade of most rail lines throughout New Mexico. It is important to understand that the BNSF railroad through southeast New Mexico is a very safe corridor.

The many complaints regarding transportation are not relevant to the DEIS other than the 4-mile rail spur.

However, there will be legitimate concerns by the landowners and communities along the rail line. The data from decades of transporting spent nuclear fuel from both the east coast and west coast to Idaho for the Navy is near perfect.

Very few people even know that radioactive materials are transported over our railways and highways all the time because there are very few problems. The safety record is almost perfect and there is no reason that it won't be the same for transporting commercial spent nuclear fuel.

Used nuclear fuel will arrive at the HI-STORE CISF by rail in robust and safe transport casks using specialty-designed rail cars. My only personal concern with the transport of used nuclear fuel is that the trains do not disrupt the flow of street traffic within the Roswell city limits. This implies short train length or passing through the city at night.