

From: Edwin Beatty <edwinbeatty@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Holtec-CISFEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] Citizen Comment on Holtec proposal to locate nuclear waste dump in NM

ATTN: Nuclear Regulatory Commission
RE: Holtec Nuclear Waste Proposal for Locating Nuclear Dump in New Mexico

There are a number of good reasons that I oppose the Holtec proposal to locate a nuclear waste dump in New Mexico. I will focus on only two:

1. Transportation: The risk of moving nuclear waste from multiple locations around the United States, most on the East Coast and distant from the New Mexico location. Much as Holtec maintains this can be done safely, the risk of any kind of accident in transport is grave. The transport routes, whether rail or highway, will all pass through major population centers. There have been numerous accidents in the transport of oil, with considerable destruction and health impacts. Any kind the possible effect of nuclear transport accident would be potentially catastrophic, with both immediate effects and very long lasting consequences. Numerous examples of the impacts of nuclear accidents illustrate how disastrous and long lived such accidents could be.

2. Time: Although the Holtec proposal is for “temporary” storage only, the possibility of a “permanent” storage site being established is remote. The Yucca Mountain site has been abandoned after billions of dollars were spent on developing it. Many states, counties and cities have banned the the construction of nuclear waste storage facilities. If a “permanent” site was developed, then the waste in NM would have to be transported once again. The NM site itself would remain contaminated for a minimum of 100,000 to 1 Million Years... taking productive, farmable, inhabitable land out of use for an extremely long time, and requiring ongoing expense in maintaining and monitoring the site for radiation leaks and container integrity.

In sum, it’s clear that this Holtec proposal is a great deal for Holtec, and a terrible deal for the state and people of New Mexico. It should not be built.

Thank you,

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