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Holtec International HI-STORE Consolidated Interim Storage Facility Project

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Holtec International HI-STORE Consolidated Interim Storage Facility Project

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General Comment

Though you are now hosting public webinars for folks to review the Environmental Impact statement for the proposed Holtec interim storage facility, I feel that the general public, and most importantly, the residents of New Mexico are not cognizant to this project. There is little reporting about the Holtec Storage facility, with the news filled with Covid-19 stories, the upcoming election and the current economic turmoil. Unfortunately this means that the sentiment of most folks on the matter of storing high level nuclear waste stored in a facility in our state and the matter of its transport path across many communities across the country will be unheard. It feels that this is to be a rushed deal and that there may be unforeseen outcomes that can impact our communities in a negative way several years hence. We are a state that has water challenges and it is a fact that an underground aquifer exists in the region chosen for this facility. There may not be the expertise on the ground in Lea county to deal with any leakage problem, a possible contamination of the precious water. As well, there are many oil and gas drill sites in the region and having the nuclear storage facility nearby can pose a risk. There is the potential for an accident along the transport route and once this material is strewn across a landscape, the radioactive danger is hard to contain. I feel that this entire storage project poses too great a risk to the public. It would be wiser to have a long term mindset and work on finding a more suitable, geologically stable site that could be developed for long term, no interim storage. Meanwhile these products of the nuclear industry are best stored on site, where they can be monitored and not carried across miles of country, to a facility that is supposedly only interim.