



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

September 29, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Jessie M. Quintero, Acting Chief
Environmental Review Materials Branch
Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,
and Financial Support
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Stacey Imboden, Sr. Project Manager
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Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,
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SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST 20, 25, 26 AND SEPTEMBER 2, 2020,
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PUBLIC
COMMENT MEETINGS FOR HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL'S
PROPOSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY, LEA
COUNTY, NEW MEXICO (DOCKET NUMBER: 72-1051)

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff conducted four additional public comment meetings on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) (NUREG-2237) for a license application from Holtec International (Holtec) to construct and operate a consolidated interim storage facility (CISF) for spent nuclear fuel in Lea County, New Mexico. The first two public comment meetings were held on June 23, 2020 and July 9, 2020 (meeting summary is enclosed). The four additional public comment meetings were held in August and September. The public meetings were held via WebEx and a moderated telephone line on Thursday, August 20, 2020, Tuesday, August 25, 2020, Wednesday, August 26, 2020, and Wednesday, September 2, 2020. The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency has impeded staff's ability to hold in-person meetings to date. The purpose of the public meetings was to provide the public with an opportunity to provide comments on the staff's analysis in the DEIS for the CISF application prior to the comment period end date of September 22, 2020. Each meeting began with a formal presentation given by the NRC staff that addressed the purpose of the meetings, NRC's regulatory mission and responsibilities, the safety and environmental review process, and the environmental impacts of the proposed project as outlined in the DEIS. After the staff's presentation, members of the public were invited to provide comments on the analysis in the DEIS.

Approximately 90 people attended the August 20, 2020 meeting, with 15 providing verbal comments, approximately 115 people attended the August 25, 2020 meeting with 22 providing verbal comments, approximately 75 people attended the August 26, 2020 meeting with 15 providing verbal comments, and approximately 130 people attended the September 2, 2020 meeting, with 27 providing verbal comments. The participants included members of the NRC staff, members of the public, members of Tribes, state and local government officials, members of public advocacy organizations, and the news media. Public comments were mainly focused on:

- transportation risks,
- integrity/robustness of the casks,
- radiological impacts,
- socioeconomics benefits and burdens,
- environmental justice,
- legality of the licensing process under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act,
- "de facto" final repository concerns,
- cumulative impacts, and
- requests for in-person meetings.

Enclosure 1 contains the meeting summary from the initial two public comment meetings. Enclosures 2 through 5 contain the meeting transcripts for the four additional public comment meetings. Enclosure 6 contains the NRC staff's meeting slides. The public meeting notice for each meeting is available on the NRC's public meeting web page at <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg>. The official corrected transcripts for all meetings are available through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems (ADAMS) accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> on the NRC website. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's Public Document Room reference staff at 1-800-397-4737 or via e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov.

The NRC staff's presentations and transcripts for the meetings are also available on the NRC's public web page for its review of the Holtec license application at <https://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/cis/holtec-international.html>.

Docket No.: 72-1051

Enclosures:

1. Meeting Summary (ML20216A377)
2. Transcript for August 20, 2020 Webinar (ML20240A269)
3. Transcript for August 25, 2020 Webinar (ML20244A154)
4. Transcript for August 26, 2020 Webinar (ML20245E172)
5. Transcript for September 2, 2020 Webinar (ML20252A171)
6. Meeting presentation (ML20225A100)

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INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY, LEA COUNTY, NEW MEXICO (DOCKET
NUMBER: 72-1051)

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***via email**

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