

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** NRC-2021-0036

Palisades Nuclear Plant and Big Rock Point Plant Consideration of Approval of Transfer of Control of Licenses and Conforming Amendments

**Comment On:** NRC-2021-0036-0001

Palisades Nuclear Plant and Big Rock Point Plant Consideration of Approval of Transfer of Control of Licenses and Conforming Amendments

**Document:** NRC-2021-0036-DRAFT-0033

Comment on FR Doc # 2021-02357

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## Submitter Information

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## General Comment

I object to the transfer of licenses and ownership, from current owner Entergy Nuclear to proposed new owner Holtec International, for the Palisades and Big Rock Point nuclear power plant sites.

First and foremost, I object to the extremely short timeline of 30 to comment on this complicated issue, of interest to residents of the states where the plants are located, the states that the radioactive waste will be transported through to be dumped in Texas and New Mexico and residents of Texas and New Mexico where these temporary storage sites are being set up out in the desert where there are no contingency plans to deal with leakages, accidents and potential incidents including terrorist attacks.

A much longer comment period (at least 90 days) would be appropriate to allow all affected parties to effectively weigh in.

Additionally, Holtec is invested in profit, not safety. Holtec is applying to store high level nuclear waste temporarily in the desert of New Mexico. Holtec wants to drag this waste across the country in flimsy transportation containers and partially bury it in New Mexico. These containers are not made to last more than 40 years and there is no permanent location to relocate these deteriorating vessels to. There is no plan to repackage this high level nuclear waste in case it leaks in New Mexico or before it is moved to some yet to be determined and likely never to be determined fantasy site. Instead, the waste will sit in the New Mexican Desert where it will leak and irradiate the area.

Holtec has not appropriately planned for safe transportation of high level waste via rail. The rail system cannot support the weight of the transport cars which will deform the rails and will be unsteady and unwieldy. It seems Holtec is more interested in profits than safety. So this would generalize to the

management of any nuclear power plants it has a license to operate.

Texas has recently gotten a taste of what happens when profits over safety hold sway. Texas turned most of its electric grid over to companies that wanted to run it for profit and safety went out the window. The Texas electric grid did not function adequately during a winter storm (a predicted winter storm) and lives were lost along with billions of dollars it will cost Texas consumers, taxpayers, and rate payers. Lots of promises were made by these private companies about safety and reliability when Texas gave these companies control of their electric grid, but when push came to shove, costs were cut and safety was the last consideration behind profit. Promises are cheap and Holtec makes many promises but does not want to pony up to cover real risks that it will expose the public to as it tries to wring every penny out of these plants and their decommissioning. Holtec has recommended very little security at their waste site in New Mexico in a time of

Holtec wants to dump class A, B and C waste in Texas at the WCS site. Texas is the Wild West, where there is minimal regulation and lots of profit taken. The NRC is tasked with ensuring public safety, not private profit. So, just say "NO". It is not right to dump this dangerous material out in the desert of Texas where it will not be adequately regulated or secured. Amounts to little more than dumping your garbage in someone else's backyard by paying them a nominal fee and then driving away. The neighbors all around will pay the real price, as will the residents of west Texas and eastern New Mexico. So where is the "regulatory" in Nuclear Regulatory Commission? Show some spine and demand real safety and accountability. Tell Holtec they are not suited to be licensed to run these two power plants. They just want to take their profits from them and leave the taxpayer holding the bag.

Just take a real look at what happened in Texas during the recent winter storm and you will see exactly what will happen if you hand these plants to Holtec. They will cut costs at every opportunity, hoping against hope that they can skate out the door before their cheap decisions expose the public to high level radioactive exposure either at the plant itself, transporting waste to temporary dumps in Texas and New Mexico or at the dumps where the waste will be inadequately contained, protected and secured.

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## **Attachments**

I object to the transfer of licenses and ownership

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First and foremost, I object to the extremely short timeline of 30 to comment on this complicated issue, of interest to residents of the states where the plants are located, the states that the radioactive waste will be transported through to be dumped in Texas and New Mexico and residents of Texas and New Mexico where these temporary storage sites are being set up out in the desert where there are no contingency plans to deal with leakages, accidents and potential incidents including terrorist attacks.

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Additionally, Holtec is invested in profit, not safety. Holtec is applying to store high level nuclear waste temporarily in the desert of New Mexico. Holtec wants to drag this waste across the country in flimsy transportation containers and partially bury it in New Mexico. These containers are not made to last more than 40 years and there is no permanent location to relocate these deteriorating vessels to. There is no plan to repackage this high level nuclear waste in case it leaks in New Mexico or before it is moved to some yet to be determined and likely never to be determined fantasy site. Instead, the waste will sit in the New Mexican Desert where it will leak and irradiate the area.

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Holtec sees big pots of money for running and decommissioning these decrepit plants and that is all they see. Public safety makes no profit. And Profit is the Name of the Game.

When companies are focused on profit and not on public well being, you get the Texas storm debacle. So, look at why Holtec wants these licenses. Do they want to serve the public interest? They may say that profit and the public interest are aligned, but look at the Texas electric grid. The private electric generators said Texans would benefit from the companies' profiteering. The truth is that the companies did not give a pig's ear about public safety or wellbeing. They only cared about profits. Holtec cares only about profits, not safety. Giving them control of nuclear plants is asking for a profits over safety approach to business. Decline Holtec's license request.

Holtec has shown it is not interested on putting the emphasis on safety. Just say "NO" to their request to wring profit out of these plants while endangering the public.