

STOP THE HOLTEC NUCLEAR DUMP SITE FOR ALL U.S. SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

WHAT'S THE HOLTEC PROPOSAL?

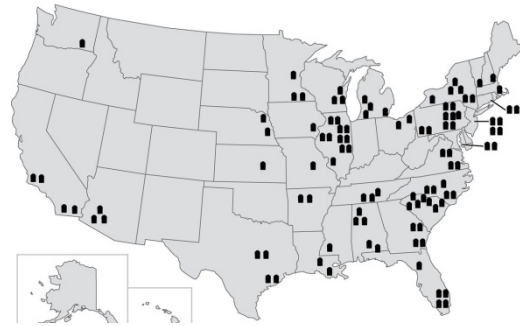
Holtec, a private company that makes nuclear waste storage and transport containers, wants to build a surface storage site for 100,000 metric tons (MT) of U.S. commercial spent fuel from nuclear reactors. The company submitted a license application in March 2017 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and hopes to begin shipping waste in 2022. Since there are less than 80,000 MT of existing spent fuel, the company wants to store all existing waste and new waste that is generated for the next many years.

WHERE'S THE HOLTEC SITE?

The 1,040-acre site is in southeastern New Mexico, about 34 miles west of Hobbs near U.S. Highway 62. Holtec has an option to buy the site from the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance.

WHERE'S THE SPENT FUEL NOW?

Virtually all spent fuel is at more than 80 nuclear reactor sites around the country. More than 90 percent of the waste is in the eastern half of the U.S.



HOW WOULD THE WASTE GET TO NEW MEXICO?

It could be shipped by train on any railroad track between the reactor sites and the Holtec site (which needs a rail spur). The waste and transportation containers are generally too heavy to ship by truck.

DOES THE HOLTEC PROPOSAL COMPLY WITH EXISTING LAW?

NO. Federal law does not allow the U.S. government to transport and store spent fuel except at a nuclear waste repository (deep underground site). Nuclear utilities are responsible for spent fuel storage. But Holtec wants the U.S. government to pay for waste transportation and storage, which requires Congress to change the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

IS HOLTEC'S CONSOLIDATED NUCLEAR WASTE STORAGE NEEDED?

NO. The nuclear utilities not only have the responsibility for waste storage, but they also have the technical experience to store the waste and great financial incentives to safely handle it because a storage accident would shut down the reactor and cost the company a lot of money. The utilities also continue to create and store more waste as long as the reactor is operating.

IS THERE A LICENSED CONSOLIDATED STORAGE SITE?

YES. Private Fuel Storage (PFS) submitted a license application to the NRC on June 20, 1997. On February 21, 2006, the NRC issued a license for storage of up to 40,000 metric tons of commercial spent fuel for 20 years. The PFS site has never been used because of public and state opposition, which resulted in Congress creating the Cedar Mountain Wilderness Area on January 6, 2006, which prevents transportation into the PFS site. On September 7, 2006, the Bureau of Indian Affairs denied the lease of Skull Valley Goshute land with PFS. On September 28, 2006, the Bureau of Land Management published its decision to deny railroad right-of-way to the PFS site.

WHAT DOES THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO SAY?

On June 7, 2019, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham wrote to the NRC that she opposes the Holtec proposal because it “poses significant and unacceptable risks to New Mexicans, our environment, and our economy.” On June 19, 2019, State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard wrote to Holtec, opposing the project and stating that, contrary to its claims, Holtec does not control the mineral rights to the site, including oil and gas resources that could be developed.

CAN PEOPLE DO?

People can oppose the Holtec proposal and support the objections by the Governor, Land Commissioner, and other state officials. You can also tell U.S. representatives and senators to not change existing law related to nuclear waste storage. Groups that oppose the Holtec proposal also need support.

For more information:

Southwest Research and Information Center – http://sric.org/nuclear/holtec_wcs.php - 505-262-1862 or www.NoNuclearWasteAqui.org, 512-797-8481.

Holtec NRC documents:

<https://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/cis/holtec-international.html>

Holtec’s website:

<https://holtecinternational.com/productsandservices/hi-store-cis/>

Nuclear industry support for Consolidated Storage:

<https://nei.org/advocacy/make-regulations-smarter/used-nuclear-fuel>

Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board report on International Spent Fuel Disposal Programs:

http://www.nwtrb.gov/docs/default-source/reports/survey_report_2016.pdf?sfvrsn=6

2016 report of spent fuel storage and disposal plans for 13 nations – U.S., Belgium, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Principles for Safeguarding Nuclear Waste at Reactors

<http://www.psr.org/resources/principles-for-safeguarding.pdf>

Alternatives to Yucca Mountain and Consolidated Storage, endorsed by more than 250 groups in 50 states.

Grassroots groups efforts to stop Consolidated Storage and Yucca Mountain

<https://www.nirs.org/campaigns/dont-waste-america/>

<http://www.beyondnuclear.org/centralized-storage/>