What’s the Holtec Proposal?

Indivisible Nob Hill
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What’s the current situation?

Basic Facts about Holtec’s Proposal
  Current Law

Will Congress Change the Law?

Next Steps in NRC process
  What Can You Do?

Your Questions and Ideas
Nuclear Power Plants

~ 94% of operating reactors are east of 100th meridian
~ 92% of spent fuel is east of 100th meridian
Total Radioactivity (23.8 billion Ci)

Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Radioactivity
23 billion Ci
97%

High Level Radioactive Waste (HLW) and DOE SNF Radioactivity
813 million Ci
3%

DOE SNF
190 million Ci
23%
DOE cesium and strontium capsules
109 million Ci
13%
DOE “German” glass
6.2 million Ci
~1%
DOE sodium-bonded SNF (ceramic and metal HLW products)
1.6 million Ci
<1%

Commercial HLW glass (West Valley Demonstration Project)
15 million Ci
3%

DOE HLW calcine (Idaho National Laboratory)
26 million Ci
5%

DOE HLW (Hanford Site)
134 million Ci
27%

DOE HLW (Savannah River Site)
332 million Ci
65%

HLW
506 million Ci
62%

Notes:
(1) Data from Carter et al. (2012) and SNL (2014).
(2) Radioactivity is for the following years: commercial SNF 2011; HLW 2017; DOE SNF 2010; capsules 2006; and “German” glass and sodium-bonded SNF 2000.
(3) Radioactivity for DOE SNF represents the inventory proposed for disposal as SNF. Radioactivity for DOE sodium-bonded SNF is the projected radionuclide inventory of ceramic and metal HLW products that will be created from electro-chemical processing of all DOE sodium-bonded SNF.
Storage Today

Surry - Virginia

San Onofre - California
Basic Questions

- If the waste is safe where it is, why bring it to New Mexico?

- If waste storage is good for the economy, why do the nuclear reactor communities not want to keep it?
Basic Facts

Holtec Site is between Carlsbad & Hobbs
Basic Facts

- NRC Application submitted March 31, 2017
  Dec. 2017 Environmental Report is 543 pages
  Safety Analysis Report is 536 pages & other documents
- 100,000 Metric Tons of Commercial Spent Fuel
  500 canisters per year for 20 years, starting in 2022.
  About 80,000 Metric Tons now stored
- Spent Fuel to be shipped by rail
  Loaded Transport cask weighs 371,000 lbs. to 414,800 lbs.
- Waste could be stored for 120 years (40-year license, plus two extensions)
Holtec Site
Now
Holtec Storage
3. For dry storage, between 24 and 89 fuel assemblies are placed into a fuel basket, for handling purposes, physical protection and improved shielding.

4. The basket is located inside the multi-purpose-canister (MPC), a seal-welded stainless-steel structure. Multi-Purpose means it is suitable for storage, transport and final repository without re-opening the canister.
5. The canister is placed into the subsurface cavity, for shielding and physical protection

6. The cavity is closed with a heavy lid for additional shielding and physical protection

7. The site is surrounded by barriers and fences for physical security protection
HI-STAR 190 Transport Cask

Cask length = 15’ 9”/17’ 8”
Internal Diameter = 6’4”
Outer Diameter = 8’10”

Waste Loaded weighs 371,000 lbs. to 414,800 lbs.
Major Rail Lines to WCS
Current Law

- Nuclear Waste Policy Act – “Polluter Pays” – Nuclear Utilities pay for storage on site and private storage

- Department of Energy (DOE) does disposal and transportation to repository disposal site
Existing Consolidated Storage

- Private Fuel Storage is located in Tooele County, Utah
- NRC issued 20-year license on February 21, 2006
- Site not used because of public and state opposition, establishment of Cedar Mountain Wilderness Area, BLM not granting access, and BIA not approving lease
Existing Storage

U.S. Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations (ISFSI)

- Reactor sites operating a general license ISFSI
- Reactor sites pursuing a general license ISFSI
- Specific licensed ISFSI (at or away from reactor site)
- Stand-alone ISFSIs
- Sites are pursuing a future specific licensed ISFSI
- Reactor sites have not announced intentions regarding ISFSI
- States have at least one ISFSI

Current as of March 2018
Holtec Wants to Change Law

“Phase 1 construction would begin after issuance of the license and after Holtec successfully enters into a contract for storage with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).” Holtec Environmental Report, p. 13.
Holtec Wants to Change Law

“The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) would be responsible for transporting SNF to the CIS Facility in transportation casks licensed by the NRC pursuant to 10 Part CFR 71.” Holtec Environmental Report, p. 198 (and p. 155).
Holtec Wants to Change Law

“The Federal government, through DOE, is responsible for providing emergency training to states, tribes, and local emergency responders along the transportation routes where SNF would be transported to the CIS Facility.” Holtec Environmental Report, p. 198.
Will Congress Change the Law?

- HR 3053 passed the House by vote of 340 to 72 on May 10 (Pearce-Yes, Lujan Grisham and Lujan – No)
- **Authorizes** funding for private consolidated storage
- House Energy & Water Appropriations does **not** include funding for private consolidated storage
Will Congress Change the Law?

- Senate will not consider HR 3053
- Senate Energy & Water Appropriations includes funding for private consolidated storage
- House and Senate Conference will develop final bill for House and Senate votes
Opposition Makes a Difference

NM senators oppose interim N-waste site

Proposed depository would store rods from commercial power plants

BY KEVIN ROBINSON-AVILA
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

New Mexico's U.S. senators, Democrats Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall, released statements on Thursday opposing a proposal to build an "interim" storage site in southeastern New Mexico for spent nuclear fuel from commercial power plants in the U.S.

Both senators said that any proposal for an interim depository should not be considered until there is a permanent solution to disposal of the nation's nuclear waste.
Reality: Lots of Opposition

April 25, 2018 – NRC webinar
25 commentors: 0 support Holtec

April 30, 2018 – Roswell meeting
53 commentors: 45 oppose Holtec, 7 support, 1 neutral

May 1, 2018 – Hobbs meeting
47 commentors: 33 oppose Holtec, 14 support

May 3, 2018 – Carlsbad meeting
61 commentors: 32 oppose Holtec + 1,300 letters, 29 support

May 21, 2018 – Gallup meeting
36 commentors: 35 oppose Holtec, 1 support (Holtec)

May 22, 2018 – Albuquerque meeting
69 commentors: 63 oppose Holtec, 6 support
Reality: Lots of Opposition

May 21, 2018 – Albuquerque City Council Memorial Opposing Holtec

May 29, 2018 – City of Jal Resolution Opposing Holtec

June 12, 2018 – Bernalillo County Commission Resolution Opposing Holtec
Opposition Makes a Difference

“WCS respectfully requests that the NRC temporarily suspend all safety and environmental review activities as well as public participation activities.” 4/18/17

“WCS also is faced with a magnitude of financial burdens that currently make pursuit of licensing unsupportable. This is so because following the recent docketing of the CISF application in January 2017, the cost profile for WCS’ pursuit of the CISF application has increased dramatically.”
Next Steps in NRC process

- NRC has public comment period until July 30 on environment impact statement scoping
- Public meetings were held in Roswell (April 30), Hobbs (May 1), Carlsbad (May 3), Gallup (May 21), and Albuquerque (May 22)

- Send public comments to: Holtec-CISFEIS@nrc.gov

- NRC issues notice of schedule for Intervening and submitting Contentions in the licensing case.
- Various parties file motions to intervene
What Can You Do?

- Email comments to NRC: Holtec-CISFEIS@nrc.gov
- Mail comments to:
  May Ma, Office of Administration
  Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M
  U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
  Washington, DC 20555-0001
- Contact Members of Congress
- Discuss the issue with candidates
What to Do?

Store waste as safely as possible as close to generating site as possible
Resources

Holtec NRC documents:
https://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/cis/holtec-international.html

Holtec community opposition:
http://nonuclearwasteaqui.org

Holtec’s website:
https://holtecinternational.com/productandservices/hi-store-cis/
DON'T WORRY ABOUT NUCLEAR WASTE.

MY NUCLEAR PLANTS HAVE SAFELY HANDLED IT FOR YEARS.

BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE THE STUFF AT 70 PLANTS AROUND THE COUNTRY. WE SHOULD TAKE IT ALL TO ONE SAFE SITE...

...NEVADA, OR NEW MEXICO, OR ANYPLACE EXCEPT MY STATE.
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