100,000 Tons of High-Level Radioactive Waste

We Don’t Want It!

Thanks to citizen lobbying at the roundhouse, 30 legislators signed on to letters objecting to the inadequate time for public comment by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on a proposed high-level nuclear fuel rod dump in New Mexico. The NRC decision took a month, saying that the legislature could comment on the full environmental impact statement (EIS), after that is released in a year or so. That makes it even more important for the public to comment during the 60-day scoping period which started on March 30. Comments will be accepted through May 29. Online -- https://www.regulations.gov and search for NRC–2018–0052. Snail-mail: Reference NRC–2018–0052. May Ma, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN–7–A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001.

- Wednesday, April 25 - phone in/webinar for public comments
- Monday, April 30 - Open House in Roswell from 4 to 7
- Tuesday, May 1 - Open House in Hobbs from 6-7; 7-10 scoping comments
- Thursday, May 3 - Open House in Carlsbad from 6-7; 7-10 scoping comments

The proposal to store spent fuel from nuclear reactors across the country has a lot of problems. One of the most critical problems is that of poorly designed transport casks that are too heavy for most railroads in New Mexico. Another major issue is that the proposal to ‘temporarily’ store this radioactive waste is contrary to current law.

- In its environmental report Holtec states that the federal government would pay for the transportation of the waste, but current federal law allows payment only for shipments to a permanent repository, not to a private storage site, such as Holtec’s.

- Radiation risks to workers in facility and along transport routes are underestimated.

- Casks are welded closed. Repair process to fix broken casks or leaking fuel have not been developed.

- Steel on storage casks licensed by NRC is 1/2 the thickness of European cask designs.

- Cask bracket system to hold used fuel rods immobile in cask is failing.

- Excellent recommendations from Blue Ribbon Commission (post Yucca Mountain closure) never followed.
Fracking in the Permian Basin is booming. The fracking is causing a considerable increase in tremors, the Holtec site is no longer at low risk for seismic activity.

NRC has created a credibility problem for itself. Document just released to Greenpeace shows that several US reactors are more vulnerable to catastrophic flooding than Fukushima vulnerability to tsunami, and this has been known for over a decade.

Only 60 days for public to comment on 600 page document is insufficient.

Environmental report on Holtec facility - legal notice states it is illegal to quote any part of it. The intent is an open discussion, not to maximize obscurity.

Permanent storage - determination of final storage and monitoring processes should be developed before any away from reactor 'interim' location.

Holtec is overly protective of proprietary data. Public can't assess safety – too much data kept secret.

Holtec application to NRC


Federal Register Notice


Resources to learn about strategies to dispose of high-level waste

Blue Ribbon Commission report on America’s Nuclear Future


Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board – Spring meeting, 2018

Operational and Monitoring considerations for Permanently Storing Nuclear Waste

8-hour long webcast from 3/27/18. Several presentations about European experience.

http://www.nwtrb.gov

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