July 30, 2018

Kristine L. Svinicki, Chairwoman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Re: HI-STORE CIS; NRC Docket #1051

Subject: Intervenor Group’s letter dated July 19, 2018

Dear Chairwoman Svinicki:

We respectfully ask that the Commission deny the request of the intervenor group dated July 19, 2018, asking to extend the scoping comment period by an additional 90 days and to suspend the Federal Register announcement of intervention window.

We believe the NRC has given ample opportunity for all citizens to comment on our project by extending the public comment period by two months and by adding two additional public meetings. Additionally, New Mexico State Senator Jeff Steinborn has also conducted two of his own hearings giving the intervenors an uncontested forum. My staff has attended every one of these hearings and public meetings to ascertain the substance of the intervenors case against the proposed HI-STORE CIS facility. We have not heard any credible assertion from the intervenors that could be termed a rational or even quasi-scientific claim. We believe that NRC officials who have participated in the public meetings would agree with us that the intervenor representatives have provided passionate discord wholly devoid of any technically based claim.

The HI-STORE CIS submittal has been publicly available for the past 16 months. We can’t identify any of the signers of the July 19, 2018 letter who attended the hearings in person. The fact that this group has waited until 11 days before the expiration date of the public comment period to petition a three-month delay reveals their true intent, which is to use as many legal stratagems as possible to slow down the progress of our project.

Under the circumstances, we respectfully submit, that granting additional time for public comment on the environmental scope of the project would generate more of the same baseless assertions that we have seen in the hearings and public meetings over the past three and a half months and reflective of the comments already submitted. By not extending the comment period, the NRC approval process can continue with the intervention window as published. I believe that granting them any extension would amount to condoning their disruptive strategy that has been exhibited by their representatives in the public hearings. It should be noted that the signers of the July 19, 2018, letter do not even hail from the Eddy or Lea county communities; in fact, except
for one signer, they are not even from the state of New Mexico. The comments from these organizations are not germane to the local environmental input that the NRC is requesting as part of the process to review the Environmental Report. They have no stake in the economic well-being of the Eddy-Lea community. The NRC should not placate these organizations by giving them more time to politically organize to disrupt a program that has overwhelming support in the local host communities in New Mexico and has irrefutable value for our country.

Sincerely,

HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL

By: __________________________
   Krishna P. Singh
   President & CEO

cc:    See Attached List

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