

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 72-1051; NRC-2018-0052]

Holtec International HI-STORE Consolidated Interim Storage Facility Project

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Draft environmental impact statement; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On March 20, 2020, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued for public comment a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Holtec International's (Holtec's) application to construct and operate a consolidated interim storage facility (CISF) for spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and Greater-Than Class C (GTCC) waste, along with a small quantity of mixed oxide fuel. The public comment period was originally scheduled to close on May 22, 2020. Given recent events associated with the COVID-19 public health emergency, the NRC has decided to extend the public comment period to allow more time for members of the public to develop and submit their comments.

DATES: The due date of comments requested in the document published on March 20, 2020 (85 FR 16150) is extended. Comments should be filed no later than July 22, 2020. Comments received after this date will be considered, if it is practical to do so, but the Commission is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before this date.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Web Site:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov/> and search for Docket ID **NRC-2018-0052**. Address questions about NRC Docket IDs to Jennifer Borges; telephone: 301-287-9127; e-mail: Jennifer.Borges@nrc.gov. For

technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT SECTION** of this document.

- **Mail comments to:** Office of Administration, Mail Stop: TWFN-7-A60M, ATTN: Program Management, Announcements and Editing Staff, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

- **E-mail comments to:** Holtec-CISFEIS@nrc.gov.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see “Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments” in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SECTION** of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jill Caverly, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-7674; e-mail: Jill.Caverly@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID **NRC-2018-0052** when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly-available information related to this action by the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Web site:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID **NRC-2018-0052**.

- **NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):** You may obtain publicly-available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select “Begin Web-based ADAMS Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC’s Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209,

301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr.resource@nrc.gov. The draft EIS for the Holtec International HI-STORE CISF project is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML20069G420.

- **Project Webpage:** Information related to the Holtec HI-STORE CISF project can be accessed on the NRC's Holtec HI-STORE CISF Web page at <https://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/cis/holtec-international.html>.

- **Public Libraries:** A copy of the draft EIS can be accessed at the following public libraries (library access and hours are determined by local policy):

- Carlsbad Public Library, 101 S. Halagueno Street, Carlsbad, NM 88220
- Hobbs Public Library, 509 N Shipp St., Hobbs, NM 88240
- Roswell Public Library, 301 N. Pennsylvania, Roswell, NM 88201

B. Submitting Comments

Please include Docket ID **NRC-2018-0052** in your comment submission. Written comments may be submitted during the draft EIS comment period as described in the **ADDRESSES SECTION** of the document.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC posts all comment submissions at <https://www.regulations.gov> and enters all comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission because the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions

before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment submissions into ADAMS.

II. Discussion

On March 20, 2020, the NRC issued for public comment a draft EIS for Holtec's application to construct and operate a CISF for SNF and GTCC waste. The draft EIS for Holtec's license application includes the preliminary analysis that evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives to the proposed action. After comparing the impacts of the proposed action (Phase 1) to the No-Action alternative, the NRC staff, in accordance with the requirements in part 51 of title 10 of the *Codes of Federal Regulations*, recommends the proposed action (Phase 1), which is the issuance of an NRC license for 40 years to Holtec to construct and operate a CISF for SNF at the proposed location. In addition, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff recommends the issuance of a permit to construct and operate the rail spur. This recommendation is based on (i) the license application, which includes an environmental report and supplemental documents, and Holtec's responses to the NRC staff's requests for additional information; (ii) consultation with Federal, State, Tribal, local agencies, and input from other stakeholders; (iii) independent NRC and BLM staff review; and (iv) the assessments provided in the EIS.

The public comment period was originally scheduled to close on May 22, 2020. The NRC has decided to extend the public comment until July 22, 2020 to allow more time for members of the public to submit their comments. Comments of Federal, State, and local agencies, Indian Tribes or other interested persons will be made available for

public inspection when received. Public meetings for the draft EIS will be announced at a later time.

Dated: April 21, 2020.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

/RA/

Cinthya I. Roman-Cuevas, Chief,
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Division of Rulemaking, Environmental,
and Financial Support,
Office of Nuclear Material Safety,
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