



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico
State Capitol, Room 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your April 17, 2020, letter requesting that the NRC extend the public comment period on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Holtec International's proposed consolidated interim storage facility in Southeast New Mexico until the COVID-19 pandemic threat has passed and public meetings can be held. You also asked that public meetings, once resumed, be held at locations across New Mexico.

The 60-day comment period on the draft EIS was scheduled to close on May 22, 2020. Given recent events associated with the COVID-19 public health emergency, and the corresponding actions taken by Federal and State governments to mitigate its spread, the NRC staff has extended the public comment period for an additional 60 days until July 22, 2020. A notice of this extension was published in the *Federal Register* on April 27, 2020.

The NRC staff plans to hold a nationwide webinar and five public meetings in New Mexico during the public comment period to present the staff's preliminary findings and receive public comments. As the COVID-19 public health emergency evolves, the NRC staff will continue to re-evaluate these plans for engaging the public, and will consider whether additional extensions to the comment period are warranted.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or have your staff contact John Lubinski, Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, at (301) 415-0595.

Sincerely,

Kristine L. Svinicki