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Holtec International HI-STORE Consolidated Interim Storage Facility Project

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Holtec International HI-STORE Consolidated Interim Storage Facility Project

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Submitter Information

Name: Wendy Austin

General Comment

My name is Wendy Austin and I'm the Deputy City Administrator for the City of Carlsbad. There is huge support for the Holtec Project in and around Carlsbad. I have followed the project closely, attended meetings, and have discussed it at length with technical members of the community. I am absolutely supportive of this project. In addition, I have high confidence in the NRC's Environmental Impact Statement, which concluded that this project safe, has a small environmental impact, and should be licensed.

For me, understanding the transportation aspect of this project was very important. I learned that the casks are specifically designed for transporting used nuclear fuel and have been previously licensed and deemed safe by the NRC. The testing and modeling conducted by Sandia National Laboratories included driving locomotives into the casks without any being compromised. In addition, I've learned that the casks must demonstrate four successive accident conditions before they are considered safe for transportation. These four accident conditions, including:

- a free drop,
- a puncture,
- a fire, and
- and submersion into water

What makes these casks so strong, is that they are designed and fabricated with multiple layers of steel, lead, and other strong materials. This heavy-duty construction safely confines the fuel, and shields workers and the public from any hazards. In addition, the fuel being transported is in a solid form, not a liquid, and this also limits the potential for matter to escape into the environment. Therefore, based on all the evidence, we should not worry about transporting this material to southeast New Mexico and because of this, I support the Holtec HI-STORE Consolidated Interim Storage Facility Project.

