



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 6

**1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270-2102**

August 15, 2022

Jill S. Caverly
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Re: Holtec International's License Application for a Consolidated Interim Storage Facility

Dear Ms. Caverly:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Holtec International's License Application for a Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) for Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Waste in Lea County, New Mexico. Our review is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The EIS evaluates the construction and operation of a CISF for spent nuclear fuel and Greater-Than-Class C waste, along with a small quantity of mixed oxide fuel. Holtec plans to subsequently request amendments to the license to store an additional 500 canisters for each of 19 expansion phases of the proposed CISF (a total of 20 phases), to be completed over the course of 20 years, and to expand the proposed facility to eventually store up to 10,000 canisters of spent nuclear fuel. The Final EIS has addressed the comments EPA submitted for the Draft EIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Final EIS. If you have any questions, the staff contact for the project is Keith Hayden. He can be reached at (214) 665-2133 or via email at hayden.keith@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert Houston
Staff Director
Office of Communities, Tribes and
Environmental Assessment