WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE could come to Southeast New Mexico - from nuclear reactors around the country - if Holtec and Eddy Lea Energy Alliance get their way…

And Waste Control Specialists (WCS) in Texas seeks a similar nuclear waste site on the border - near Eunice, NM

High-level nuclear reactor waste is one of the most dangerous substances on the planet. Radiation is invisible to the five senses, but exposure can lead to birth defects, cancers or deaths. Radioactive accidents or leaks can lead to water contamination and billions of taxpayer dollars for never-ending cleanup. One radioactive railway accident in New Mexico could destroy lives and livelihoods for generations (ranching, agriculture, oil industry, and tourism).

DO NOT CONSENT TO STORAGE OF HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE !

Nuclear reactor waste contains cesium, uranium and/or plutonium (dangerous for a quarter-million years). Holtec's proposed canisters are susceptible to cracking. What if they leak during transport or storage?

ELEA and Holtec are limited liability companies = NOT Responsible for YOUR RISK!

What Should Be Done With High-Level Radioactive Waste?

Not in New Mexico's Back Yard! BE RESPONSIBLE: They Made It = They Store It!

Centralized Storage (Consolidated at One Location) Is NOT Needed. Moving nuclear waste from 34 states (78 reactor sites) creates unnecessary lethal health risks for states/communities on routes to one storage site (dump). Nuclear waste storage should NOT be somebody else's problem.

The twenty year process to ship radioactive waste by rail and truck increases risk of accidents and terrorism. Efforts for a permanent repository, Nevada's Yucca Mountain, has failed for over 30 years - since it's geologically unsound, plus their citizenry doesn't want it! New Mexico and Texas should not be ground-zero targets for our nation's next nuclear waste dumps!

Storing spent (used) nuclear reactor fuel in dry casks, at same site where it was made, or nearby, is the least risky option. Most reactor sites are licensed to store waste 60 years past de-commissioning (point where no longer considered radioactive), plus remain guarded for decades.

For more information visit **www.NoNuclearWaste.org**

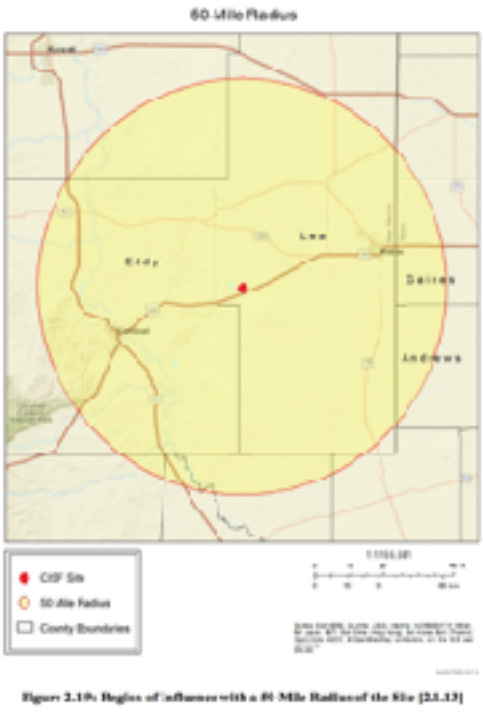
Contacts include:

- Rose Gardner, 575-394-0261, NMLady2000@hotmail.com
- Noel Marquez, 575-626-9306, Marquezarts@yahoo.com
- Don Hancock, 505-346,1460, sricdon@earthlink.net
- Cody Slama, 505-304-2051, cslama@unm.edu
- Leona Morgan, 505-879-8547, protectnewmexico@gmail.com
- Karen Hadden, SEED Coalition, 512-797-8481 karendhadden@gmail.com
- Former State Rep. Lon Burnam, Ft. Worth, 817-721-5846, lonburnam@gmail.com

KEY FACTS

- Holtec International and Eddy Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA) seek to build a high-level (most dangerous) radioactive waste storage facility between Hobbs and Carlsbad, NM, for storage of 100,000 metric tons (for up to 120 years - with 40 years through initial licensing and 80 years of license extensions). Holtec hopes to begin construction in 2020 and complete Phase 1 in a year and a half, with operation beginning in 2022.
- Holtec plans for a nationwide dump. 78,000 metric tons irradiated fuel have already been produced by U.S. nuclear reactors, so Holtec's application would include every bit of what has already been produced, plus all that is likely to be generated by today's reactors by the time they close.
- If the NRC approves the license, over 10,000 shipments of deadly radioactive waste would move across the nation for over 20 years, posing risks from accidents, leaks and terrorist actions.
- Some radiation would leak from transport containers. The NRC says that this the amount is minimal, but there could be impacts for those along transport routes or for someone who gets stuck next to a train.
- If New Mexico or Texas accepts deadly high-level radioactive waste for storage, the sites would likely become de facto permanent disposal sites for the whole country. Utilities would no longer be lobbying for a final repository and thus Congress wouldn't fund one. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) raised this issue in their 2014 report on high-level radioactive waste.
- We can predict transportation routes, but they wouldn't actually be designated and approved by USDOT and the NRC until 2022, when licensing could be complete. Citizens and policymakers need to know the routes **before** a decision is made to license radioactive consolidated radioactive waste storage.

Figure 1.1.1: Geographical Layout of Proposed HI-STORE CISF Site



Map from Holtec Safety Analysis Report, Page 36

- High-level radioactive waste must remain isolated from living things for thousands of years. It is mainly irradiated (spent) fuel rods from nuclear reactors, which still contain most of their original uranium, as well as with radioactive strontium, cesium and plutonium, which are created during the reactor fission process. Plutonium remains dangerous for over a quarter of a million years. Inhaling it causes cancer.

- About 100,000 metric tons of irradiated fuel will have been generated by existing U.S. reactors by the time they cease operating, with roughly 1000 metric tons of plutonium. If separated, that's enough plutonium for 120,000 nuclear bombs.

- A report by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), acknowledges the vulnerability of radioactive waste to sabotage during transport, and that "consequences due to sabotage or accidents are also higher during transport since the waste may be near population centers.

- DOE calculated that train transport would have an accident rate of 1 in 10,000 shipments. At least one train accident was expected to occur if transport was mainly by train. Over 10,000 shipments were anticipated for Yucca Mountain.

- **A DOE report found that a severe accident involving one radioactive waste cask that released only a small amount of waste would contaminate a 42-square mile area, with cleanup costs exceeding $620 million in a rural area. Clean up in an urban area would be time consuming. It could cost up to $9.5 billion to raze and rebuild the most heavily contaminated square mile.**

- Each railcar of high-level radioactive waste would carry roughly the amount of plutonium that was contained in the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki. (not in bomb grade form)

From New Mexico State Rail Plan 2014 - Waste could travel on many NM Railways.

Figure ES.1 New Mexico State Rail System in 2014