



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

February 28, 2018

Ms. Kimberly Manzione, Licensing Manager
Holtec International
Holtec Technology Campus
One Holtec Boulevard
Camden, NJ 08104

SUBJECT: HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL'S APPLICATION FOR SPECIFIC INDEPENDENT
SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION LICENSE FOR THE HI-STORE
CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY FOR SPENT NUCLEAR
FUEL – ACCEPTED FOR REVIEW

Dear Ms. Manzione:

By letter dated March 30, 2017 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17115A431), as supplemented on April 13, October 6, December 21 and 22, 2017; and February 23, 2018 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML17109A386, ML17310A218, ML17362A097, ML18011A158, and ML18058A617, respectively), Holtec International (Holtec) submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) an application for a specific independent spent fuel storage installation license to construct and operate the HI-STORE Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS) Facility, in Lea County, New Mexico, in accordance with the requirements of Part 72 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR 72), "*Licensing Requirements for the Independent Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel, High-Level Radioactive Waste and Reactor-Related Greater than Class C Waste.*" The license application seeks NRC approval to store up to 8,680 metric tons uranium of commercial spent nuclear fuel in the HI-STORM UMAX Canister Storage System for a 40-year license term.

The NRC staff reviewed your application, as supplemented, and concluded it provides sufficient information for docketing; and for the staff to begin a detailed safety, security, and environmental review. Accordingly, the NRC staff has established a schedule for the safety, security, and environmental review that provides for the NRC staff to issue the first round of requests for additional information (RAIs) in several parts, beginning in March 2018 and ending in August 2018. The schedule also provides that, if necessary, a second round of RAIs could be issued by NRC staff beginning in February 2019. The NRC staff expects to complete its safety, security, and environmental reviews by July 2020.

This proposed schedule assumes that Holtec will provide timely and high-quality RAI responses within 60 days of the receipt of each individual RAI letter. In accordance with the guidance in LIC-SFM-26, "Operational Strategies and Management Expectations" (ML16222A251), RAI responses which are not received within the agreed-upon time may result in the review being delayed or suspended. In addition, low-quality RAI responses may be deemed non-responsive and may be grounds for suspending the review. In general, additional changes to the application that are submitted, except for changes made to address the NRC staff's RAIs, may cause a delay in the schedule outlined above. In addition, the NRC staff estimates that

completing the review and making an independent assessment of the proposed application will cost approximately 7.5 million dollars.

The NRC staff will be in contact with you to schedule a public meeting in the near future to discuss additional details regarding the review process and communicate staff expectations on quality and timeliness of responses to RAIs. If you have any questions regarding these matters, please contact the Project Manager, Mr. Jose Cuadrado, at (301) 415-0606. Also, please reference Docket No. 72-1051 and CAC/EPID No. L-2017-NEW-0011 in future correspondence related to this action.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael C. Layton, Director
Division of Spent Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 72-1051
CAC/EPID No.: L-2017-NEW-0011

HOLTEC INTERNATIONAL’S APPLICATION FOR SPECIFIC INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION LICENSE FOR THE HI-STORE CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY FOR SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL – ACCEPTED FOR REVIEW, DOCUMENT DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2018

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