

For Immediate Release

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Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter statement on NRC approval a High-Level Waste Storage Site in NM

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SANTA FE – On Thursday the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced it intends to issue a license to HOLTEC International for the construction and operation of an interim nuclear storage facility in New Mexico.

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham called on the state Legislature “deliver a proposal to my desk that protects New Mexico from becoming the de facto home of the country’s spent nuclear fuel and it will have my full support.”

Sierra Club - Rio Grande Chapter joins this call and is already working with legislators to secure firm support for voting for legislation to ban the issuance of any state permit until there is a permanent disposal site in conformance with federal law.

Sierra Club Leader, Patricia Cardona states “The HOLTEC proposal approved by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission puts New Mexico communities at risk and lacks common sense. It appears that existing money is being diverted from designing and constructing sturdy permanent repositories for the 98 nuclear reactors as well as sturdy well-designed containers for 33 million fuel rods to build an unsafe temporary site that will be abandoned when there is no money to replace the facility or the containers with the nuclear waste.”