



New Mexico State Land Office

**Commissioner of Public Lands
Stephanie Garcia Richard**

**RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
COMMITTEE**

JUNE 15, 2023

**Sunalei Stewart
Deputy Commissioner of Operations**

Agenda



NMSLO Legal and Regulatory Framework



Holtec “Interim” Storage Facility Status Update



Remediation and Reclamation Efforts



Uranium Mining



Questions

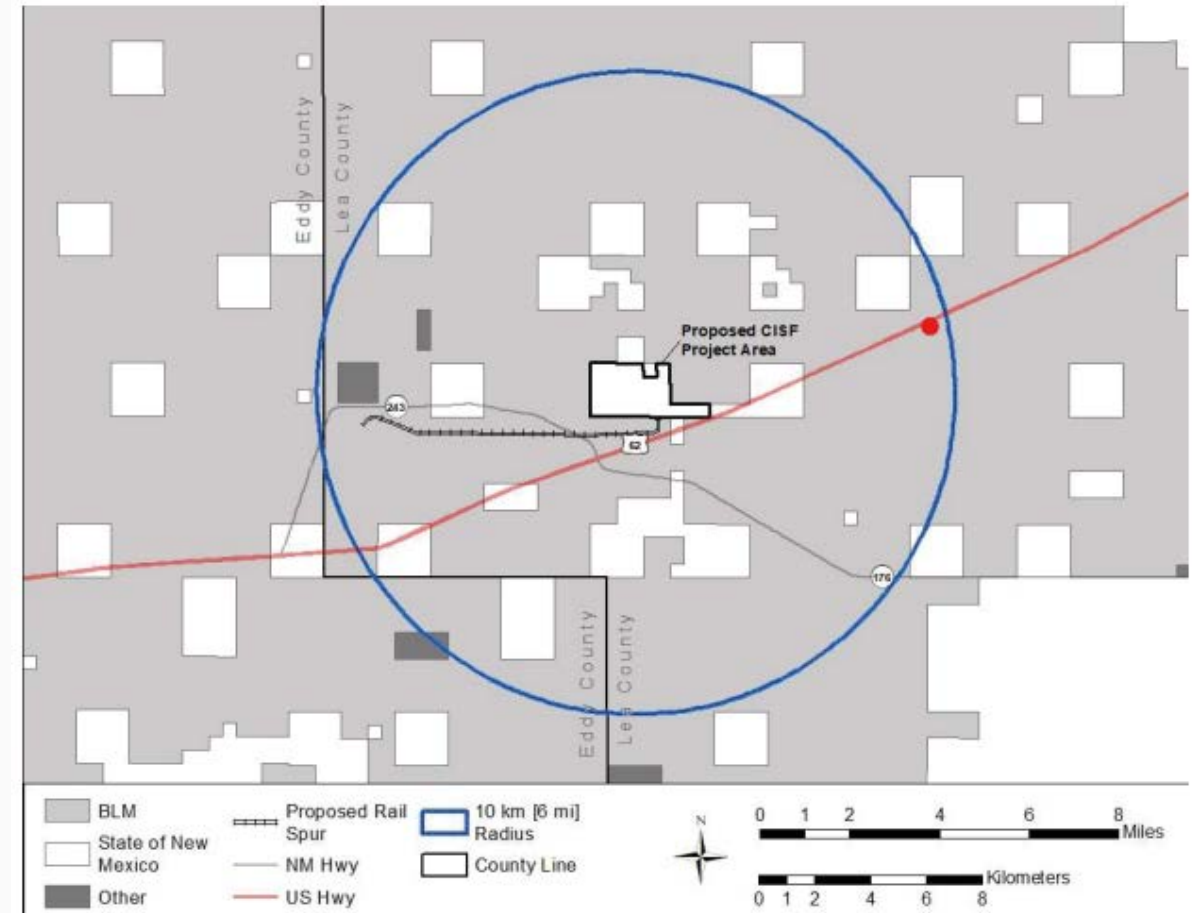
State Land Office Legal Framework

- Broad authority over the management, disposition and lease of state trust lands (9 million acres of surface, 13 million acres of mineral rights)
- Leases (ag, commercial, oil & gas, renewable, mining, etc.) provide terms and conditions entities must follow (including clean up requirements)
- Leases require compliance with other state and federal laws/regs (e.g., EMNRD, Environment Department, PRC, EPA)
- Enforcement tools – achieve compliance via collaboration or litigation

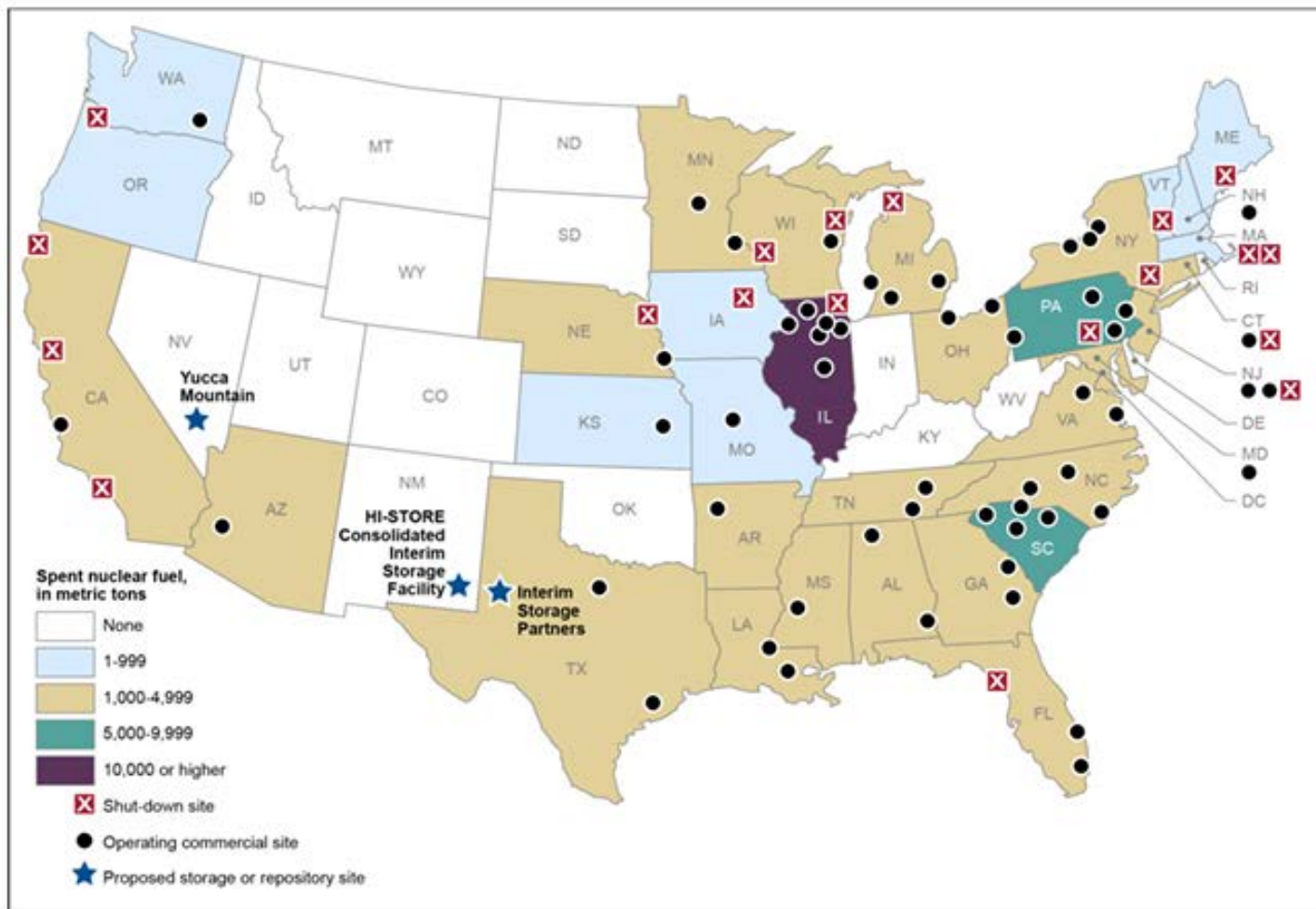


Holtec Status Update

- NRC issued license to Holtec on May 9, 2023 for “interim” storage (10,000 casks of high-level nuclear waste)
- NMSLO owns/leases mineral rights at site (no current restriction on leasing activities)
- EIS included faulty environmental & safety assessments; relied on misleading applicant info; failed to properly consider NMSLO mineral interests
- Jeopardizes Permian revenue if accident were to occur
- Texas Interim Storage Partners NRC license approved September 13, 2021

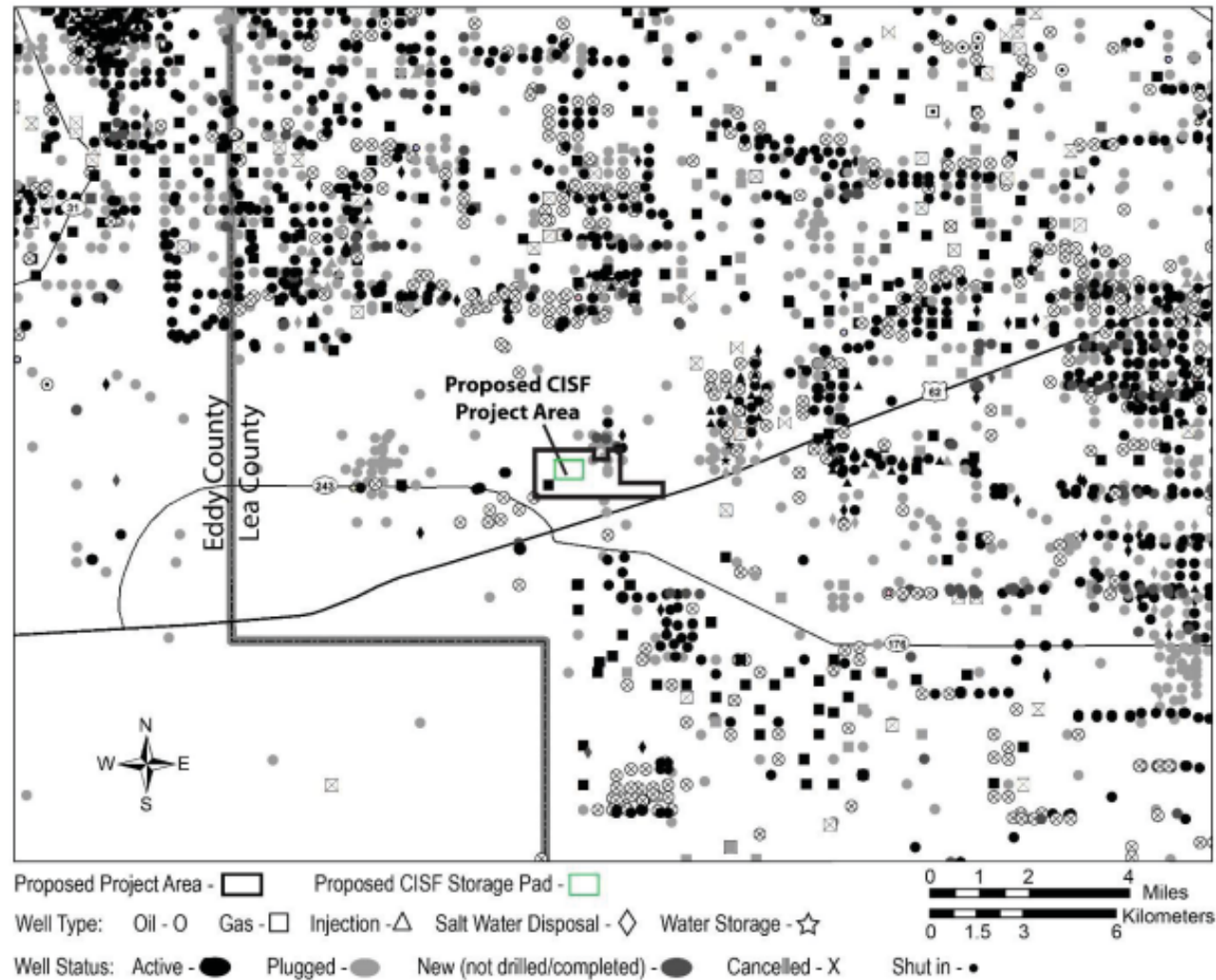


Spent Nuclear Fuel Amounts Currently Stored at 70 Sites in 35 States













Sources: GAO analysis of data from Gutherman Technical Services, LLC, the Department of Energy, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Map Resources (map). | GAO-21-603

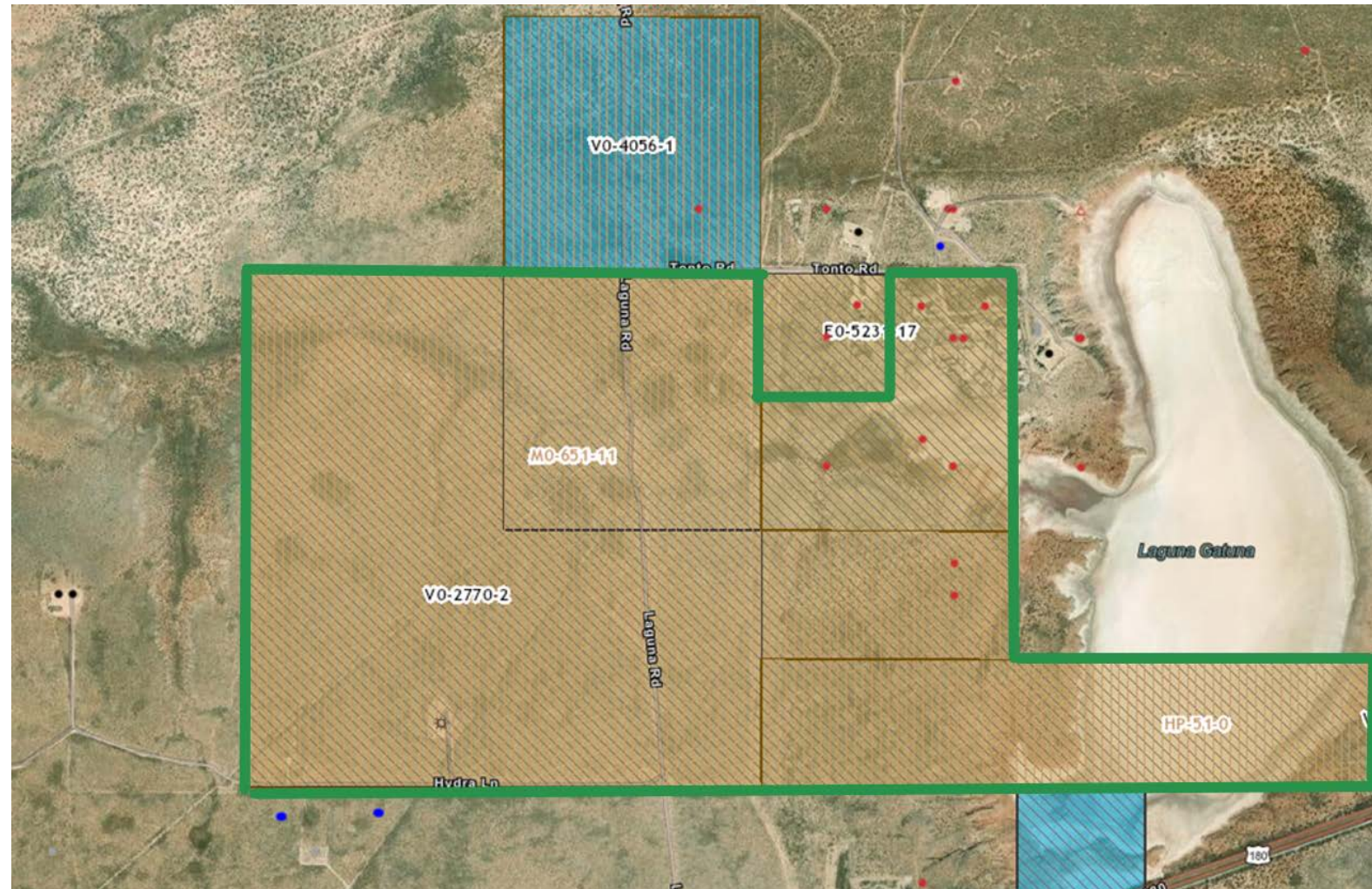
Oil & Gas Wells Within and Surrounding Project Area



Oil, Gas and Mineral Site Activity

NM Trust Lands - By Estate

-  Subsurface
-  Surface and Subsurface
-  Oil and Gas Leases
 -  Gas, Active
 -  Oil, Active
 -  Oil, Cancelled
 -  Oil, New
 -  Oil, Plugged
-  Minerals Leases
-  Project Area



Remediation and Reclamation Efforts



Created New Environmental Compliance Office

- Secured three new Environmental Specialist positions in 2022 Legislative Session
- Supports workforce development in key sector (e.g., UNM BBER jobs study on uranium and environmental remediation) and stepped-up remediation & reclamation activities



New Enforcement and Accountability Program

- 265 oil & gas wells plugged
- 25 lawsuits filed



Bonding

- Terminate non-bonded leases
- Protect taxpayers and beneficiaries

Uranium Activity on State Trust Lands

- Two active, legacy uranium mining leases (neither producing)
 - NuFuels, Inc. (signed 2018; expires 2033)
 - Roco Hondo Resources, LLC (signed 2015; expires 2030)
- Major site contamination (San Mateo Creek Basin)



San Mateo Creek Basin EPA Project Map Surface Uranium Contamination

NMSLO Sections 2 & 36

