



**New Mexico State Land Office**

**Commissioner of Public Lands  
Stephanie Garcia Richard**

**RADIOACTIVE AND HAZARDOUS  
MATERIALS COMMITTEE**

**JUNE 22, 2022**

# Agenda



**NMSLO Legal and Regulatory Framework**



**Holtec “Interim” Storage Facility Status Update**



**Remediation and Reclamation Efforts**



**Uranium Mining**



**Questions**

# State Land Office

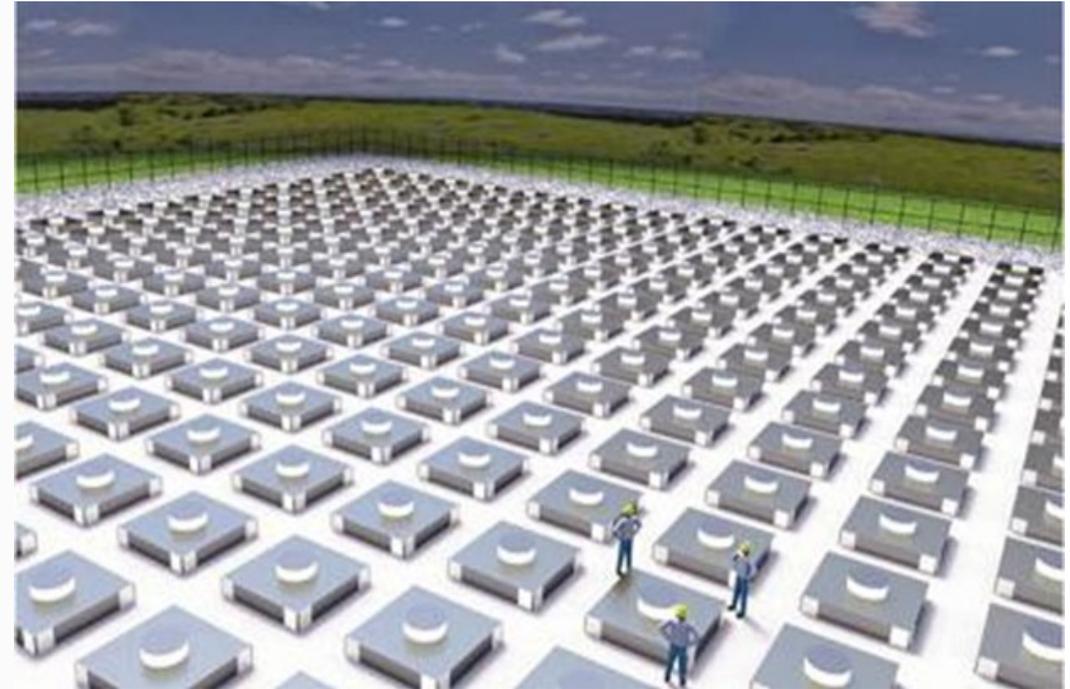
## Legal and Regulatory Framework

- Manage nine million acres of surface and 13 million acres of mineral estate – **expect to exceed \$2 billion in FY22 from leasing activities**
- Broad authority over the management, disposition, lease and sale of state trust lands, subject to any limitations prescribed in federal and state law
- Leases (ag, commercial, oil & gas, renewable, mining, etc.) provide terms and conditions entities must follow (including clean up requirements)
- Must adhere to NMSLO specific rules / leases also require compliance with other state and federal rules/regs (e.g., EMNRD, Environment Department, PRC, EPA)
- Enforcement tools – achieve compliance via collaboration or litigation



# Holtec Status Update

- Proposed “interim” storage for 10,000 casks of high-level nuclear waste
- NMSLO owns/leases mineral estate at site
- Draft EIS includes faulty environmental & safety assessments; relied on misleading applicant info; failed to properly consider NMSLO mineral interests
- Jeopardizes Permian revenue if accident were to occur
- Final EIS expected in July, final decision Jan. 2023 (delayed again due to Holtec’s failure to answer NRC questions)
- Texas Interim Storage Partners license already approved (being challenged in court)



*Holtec International*

# Remediation and Reclamation Efforts



## Created New Remediation and Reclamation 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)



## New Enforcement and Accountability Program

- Over 100 oil & gas wells plugged
- Over 20 lawsuits filed



## Bonding

- Terminate non-bonded leases
- Protect taxpayers and beneficiaries

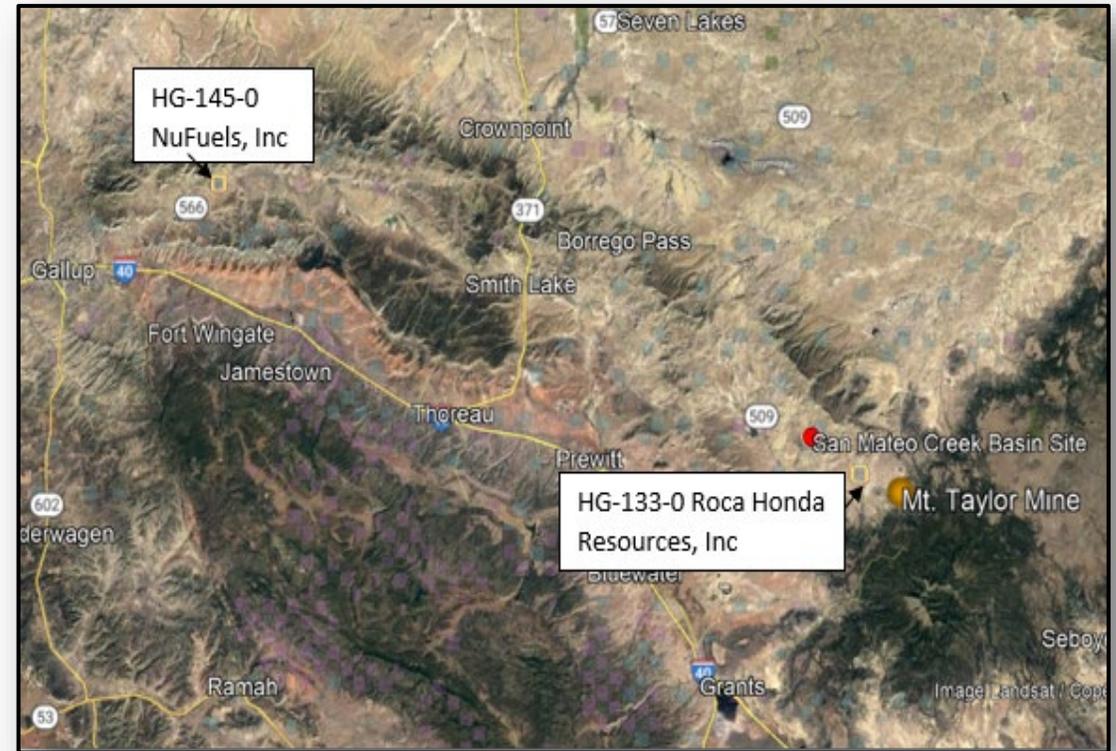
# Remediation and Reclamation Efforts



Permian Basin Caliche Pit Reclamation

# Uranium Activity on State Trust Lands

- Two active 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

