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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE EDDY-LEA ENERGY ALLIANCE TO DEVELOP A
CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY.

WHEREAS, the 2013 report from the blue ribbon commission on America's nuclear future strongly recommended that one or more consolidated interim storage facilities be established to temporarily store the spent nuclear fuel generated by America's nuclear fleet, which generates approximately twenty percent of the electricity in the United States; and

WHEREAS, nuclear power plants are an important carbon-free source of reliable electricity production in the United States, and without them, America would be emitting six hundred million metric tons, or twenty-five percent more, of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere annually; and

WHEREAS, there are thirteen decommissioned reactors in the United States that need a place for their used fuel to be stored, and about twenty more will be decommissioned by 2035; and

WHEREAS, many power generators have overly packed fuel pools, and others have very limited on-site storage capability; and

WHEREAS, the nuclear power utilities have standard contracts with the United States government requiring that the United States government take possession of the

1 utilities' spent fuel by 1998 and remove it from their sites
2 to Yucca mountain, which has not happened because Yucca
3 mountain is mired in numerous technical issues; and

4 WHEREAS, all of the utilities have sued the
5 United States government for breach of contract and have won
6 settlement agreements that will pay the utilities from
7 United States government settlement funds all of their
8 storage and management costs associated with their spent
9 nuclear fuel from 1998 beyond until the United States
10 government is able to take possession of the fuel and remove
11 it to a temporary consolidated storage site or a permanent
12 repository; and

13 WHEREAS, the blue ribbon commission on America's nuclear
14 future estimated that the United States treasury would pay
15 out more than twenty billion dollars (\$20,000,000,000) to the
16 utilities by 2020, and thereafter, the cost to the treasury
17 would be five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) per
18 year; and

19 WHEREAS, the Eddy-Lea energy alliance, llc, was formed
20 by the cities of Carlsbad and Hobbs and the counties of Eddy
21 and Lea for economic development purposes; and

22 WHEREAS, the Eddy-Lea energy alliance purchased one
23 thousand acres of land between Carlsbad and Hobbs to respond
24 to a government project as a joint venture that ultimately
25 did not materialize; and

1 WHEREAS, the alliance was afforded a grant by the United
2 States government of more than one million dollars
3 (\$1,000,000) to characterize the site extensively for
4 environmental, archaeological, geologic, seismic and
5 geographic criteria; and

6 WHEREAS, the alliance was dormant until the blue ribbon
7 commission on America's nuclear future began to focus on
8 consolidated interim storage as an interim step to reduce
9 costs through consolidation of the spent fuel and fulfill the
10 contractual obligations with the utilities; and

11 WHEREAS, the alliance site is ideal for a consolidated
12 interim storage facility because of the technical criteria of
13 the site, because it is thirty-five miles from any
14 population, because there is no overhead air traffic and
15 because there is a trained scientific nuclear workforce in
16 the area; and

17 WHEREAS, the number one concern of the alliance when
18 developing any project on the site is the safety and security
19 of the residents of Eddy and Lea counties; and

20 WHEREAS, the board of directors of the alliance
21 investigated the safety and security concerns extensively
22 through visitations to nuclear manufacturing facilities and
23 nuclear power plants and discussions with the nuclear
24 regulatory commission; and

25 WHEREAS, dry cask storage has been used for more than

1 thirty years in America without incident; and

2 WHEREAS, the alliance has received a favorable proposal
3 from Holtec international to acquire the alliance site and
4 develop it as a consolidated interim storage facility; and

5 WHEREAS, Holtec international's sub-surface system,
6 known as UMAX, is already certified by the nuclear regulatory
7 commission; and

8 WHEREAS, design, construction, safety, security,
9 financial assurance and technical control, as well as the
10 complete process for storage, must be overseen and approved
11 by the nuclear regulatory commission; and

12 WHEREAS, the nuclear regulatory commission approves and
13 certifies all shipping casks, rail cars, trucking or any
14 other method of transit; and

15 WHEREAS, hundreds of shipments of spent fuel have
16 occurred in America over the past thirty years without
17 incident; and

18 WHEREAS, the Eddy-Lea energy alliance believes the
19 Holtec international consolidated interim storage facility
20 will create some one hundred fifty highly paid jobs and will
21 provide a one-billion-two-hundred-million-dollar
22 (\$1,200,000,000) capital investment in southeastern
23 New Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, the alliance believes additional spinoffs in
25 research and repackaging could create an additional two

1 hundred jobs in the future; and

2 WHEREAS, the Eddy-Lea energy alliance expects that there
3 will be revenue-sharing income from the project that it
4 expects to share with the state of New Mexico and the region;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the Eddy-Lea energy alliance, llc,
7 be requested to develop a consolidated interim storage
8 facility at its site in southeastern New Mexico; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, United
11 States Secretary of Energy Edward Moniz and Acting Assistant
12 Secretary for the Office of Nuclear Energy John Kotek. _____

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