

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY THIRD COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. M-18-1 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Patrick Davis

1 MEMORIAL
2 OPPOSING TRANSPORTATION OF HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE VIA
3 RAILWAY THROUGH THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF
4 TEMPORARY CONSOLIDATED STORAGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN NEW
5 MEXICO.

6 WHEREAS, the City owns and operates a number of Community Centers,
7 Health and Social Services Centers, Senior/Fitness Centers, and Multi-
8 Generational Centers throughout the City; and

9 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque is committed to protecting the health,
10 welfare, safety, and security of its residents; and

11 WHEREAS, Holtec Inc. has applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
12 for a license to store up to 100,000 tons of 'spent' nuclear reactor fuel, which is
13 all of the nation's most dangerous nuclear waste, in temporary in-ground
14 storage in Lea County, SE New Mexico; and

15 WHEREAS, some of the waste could be shipped by rail through the City of
16 Albuquerque; and

17 WHEREAS, if the nuclear waste is brought to New Mexico for temporary
18 storage it would then need to be transported a second time, increasing two
19 fold the dangers of transportation. Therefore, this 'spent' nuclear reactor fuel
20 should remain secured at or near the site of generation and be transported
21 only once, when a scientifically viable permanent disposal site becomes
22 available; and

23 WHEREAS, if during transport an accident occurred resulting in a release
24 of a small amount of radioactivity from the 'spent' nuclear reactor fuel, it could
25 contaminate a 42-square mile area. A Department of Energy study found that

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1 the cleanup could cost \$620 million in a rural area and \$9.5 billion in the most
2 heavily contaminated square mile of an urban area; and

3 WHEREAS, exposure to dangerous levels of radioactivity is known to lead
4 to birth defects, genetic damage, and cancers. And unshielded exposure to
5 high-level radioactive waste could be lethal; and

6 WHEREAS, our lives, land, and aquifers must be protected from radioactive
7 contamination that could result from accidents, radiation releases, leaks, or
8 terrorist actions during the thousands of 'spent' nuclear reactor fuel waste
9 shipments spanning over at least 20 years if temporary consolidated storage
10 is licensed.

11 BE IT MEMORIALIZED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
12 CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE:

13 The City Council of Albuquerque opposes the transportation of high-level
14 radioactive waste, including Holtec's 'spent' nuclear reactor fuel, on our
15 railways through the City of Albuquerque for the purpose of temporary
16 consolidated storage of high-level radioactive waste in New Mexico.

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