

**CITY of ALBUQUERQUE  
TWENTY THIRD COUNCIL**

COUNCIL BILL NO. M-18-1 ENACTMENT NO. M-2018-001

**M-2018-001**

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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1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF May 2018  
2 BY A VOTE OF: 4 FOR 3 AGAINST.

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Against: Harris, Jones, Winter  
Abstain: Gibson  
Excused: Benton

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Ken Sanchez, President  
City Council

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APPROVED THIS 24 DAY OF May, 2018

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Bill No. M-18-1

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ATTEST:  
  
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Trina Gurule, Acting City Clerk

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