



Legislation Text

File #: M-18-1, Version: 2

**CITY of ALBUQUERQUE
TWENTY THIRD COUNCIL**

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

SPONSORED BY: Patrick Davis

MEMORIAL

**Opposing Transportation Of High-Level Radioactive Waste Via Railway Through The City
Of Albuquerque For The Purpose Of Temporary Consolidated Storage Of Radioactive
Waste In New Mexico (Davis)**

**OPPOSING TRANSPORTATION OF HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE VIA RAILWAY
THROUGH THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE FOR THE PURPOSE OF TEMPORARY
CONSOLIDATED STORAGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN NEW MEXICO.**

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS, if the nuclear waste is brought to New Mexico for temporary storage it
would then need to be transported a second time, increasing two fold the dangers of**

transportation. Therefore, this 'spent' nuclear reactor fuel should remain secured at or near the site of generation and be transported only once, when a scientifically viable permanent disposal site becomes available; and

WHEREAS, if during transport an accident occurred resulting in a release of a small amount of radioactivity from the 'spent' nuclear reactor fuel, it could contaminate a 42-square mile area. A Department of Energy study found that the cleanup could cost \$620 million in a rural area and \$9.5 billion in the most heavily contaminated square mile of an urban area; and

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

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

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

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

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