



January 24, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
The President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We, the Eddy Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA), are writing to you in response to a letter you recently received from New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham concerning a project important to the people of southeast New Mexico. We believe it is important for you to hear from those who initiated the project in 2012, who best understand the project, and know who will benefit from the jobs and economic stimulus.

The project of interest is our public-private partnership with Holtec International on a Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) for Spent Nuclear Fuel. This facility, recommended by the Blue-Ribbon Commission for America's Nuclear Future as a temporary solution for the lack of a deep repository – Yucca Mountain, would fulfill the lack of permanent solution for our nation's spent nuclear fuel that was required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

In January 2012, when the Blue-Ribbon Commission recommended a CISF, ELEA, which is comprised of elected officials from the cities Carlsbad and Hobbs and the counties of Eddy and Lea in southeast New Mexico, reviewed the technical feasibility to build a CISF in the area. The area, with a rich history in supporting the nation's nuclear industry, has already benefited from the Department of Energy's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant and the commercial Urenco Uranium Enrichment Facility. Allowing for another nuclear industry into southeast New Mexico would suit the area and population well, and help to stabilize the economy from variations in the oil and gas industry. ELEA teamed with Holtec International, the world leader in dry storage technology and the largest owner of decommissioned nuclear power plants in the United States. When the project was first envisioned, Governor Suzana Martinez fully supported the endeavor and sent a letter to Dr. Moniz, then the Secretary of Energy under President Obama, affirming it.

Holtec International has worked through the highly regulated process set forth by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to license the facility. The process is detailed, transparent, and without reproach. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was issued in July with the State of New Mexico and the Bureau of Land Management as coordinating agencies. The Safety Evaluation Report (SER) is expected in February 2023. With the FEIS and SER issued, a license for the construction and operation of the facility should follow shortly thereafter.

We ask you to allow the U.S. NRC to complete their function as the United States' nuclear regulatory body – to issue a license if warranted. Governor Lujan Grisham's technical and environmental concerns will be addressed in the licensing documents. Since 2012, there has been strong support for the facility in southeast New Mexico. The support has never wavered. Holtec International has educated our elected officials, emergency managers, first responders, and the general public. The only support that has wavered during the licensing process is that from Santa Fe. This is the crux of consent-based siting – how to move beyond the politics to do what is right for the community most invested in the project.

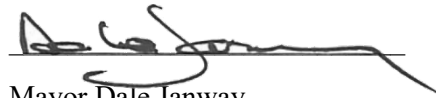
We ask that you not only allow the U.S. NRC to complete the licensing process but to support this facility at the federal level, through the Department of Energy. The proposed facility is wanted by the citizens of southeast New Mexico, will save the Nation tens of billions of dollars, and will help pave the way for more stable green power from our Nation's nuclear power industry. We stand ready to answer any questions and to brief you on our project.

With Great Respect,

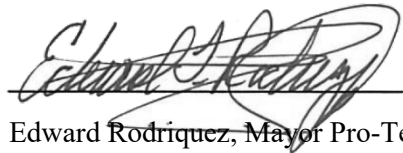
The Eddy Lea Energy Alliance

SIGNED AS FOLLOWS:

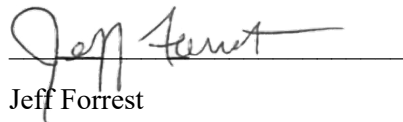
**CARLSBAD CITY COUNCIL**



Mayor Dale Janway




Edward Rodriguez, Mayor Pro-Tem



Jeff Forrest



J. J. Chavez



Karla Hamel Niemeier

**HOBBS CITY COMMISSION**



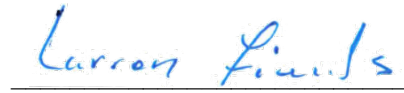
Mayor Sam Cobb, ELEA Chairman



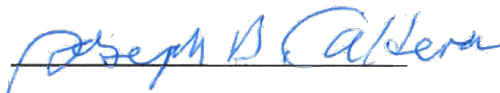
R. Finn Smith, ELEA Brd Member



Christopher Mills



Larron Fields



Joseph Calderon

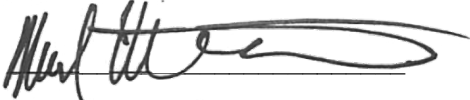
**CARLSBAD CITY COUNCIL (cont)**



Judith Waters



Wesley Carter, ELEA Brd Member



Mark Walterscheid

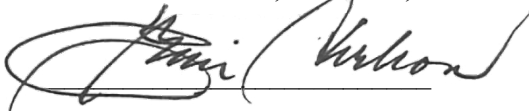


John Heaton

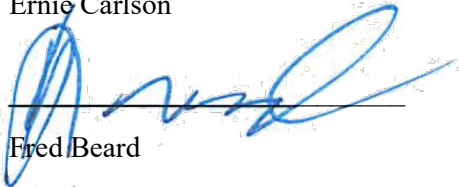
**EDDY COUNTY COMMISSION**



Steven McCutcheon, Chairman; ELEA Brd Member



Ernie Carlson



Fred Beard



Sarah Cordova

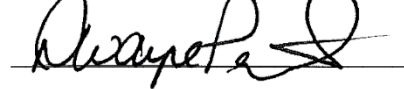


Susan Crockett



James William Bowen III, Eddy County  
Commissioner Elect

**HOBBS CITY COMMISSION (cont)**

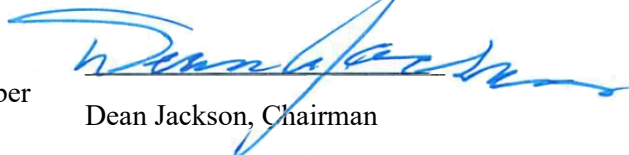


Dwane Penick



Don R. Gerth

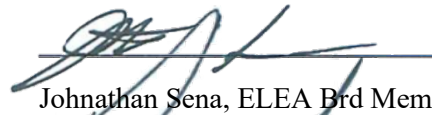
**LEA COUNTY COMMISSION**



Dean Jackson, Chairman



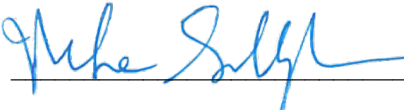
Gary Eidson, Vice Chairman



Johnathan Sena, ELEA Brd Member



Pat Sims



Mike Gallagher, ELEA Public Brd Appointee

cc: The Hon. Jennifer Granholm, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary  
The Hon. New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham  
The Hon. Christopher Hanson, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chair



# State of New Mexico

Susana Martinez  
*Governor*

April 10, 2015

Dr. Ernest Moniz, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz,

This letter is to inform you of my support of the community leaders who continue to spearhead the effort to bring a consolidated interim storage facility for spent fuel to southeastern New Mexico.

The recent decision by your administration to adopt a consent-based approach for waste management should highlight areas such as southeastern New Mexico where there is broad support in the region for such an endeavor. The Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance (ELEA) is an organization with regional participation by the City of Carlsbad, City of Hobbs, Eddy County and Lea County. As you are aware, the residents of this area have a high level of understanding of the nuclear industry and its importance to our national security. There is a strong pre-existing scientific and nuclear operations workforce in the area, and the dry, remote region is well-suited for an interim storage site. ELEA has already selected a location that has been vetted extensively.

There is a significant and growing national need for such an interim storage facility. Millions of taxpayer dollars are currently being spent on monitoring and oversight of spent fuel each year, and millions more are being spent on settlement payments related to waste disposition. In many instances, these actions are taking place where such activity and the presence of such waste is disagreeable to local communities.

These communities in New Mexico support safely moving spent fuel to a consolidated interim storage site using proven technology which is the most sensible approach to this problem until a permanent and long-term solution is available. Dry cask storage is a proven, passive, and safe system that has been used since 1984 with no adverse incidents.

*Dr. Ernest Moniz*  
*ELEA Interim Storage*

Time and time again, the citizens of southeastern New Mexico have impressed me with their hard work ethic and willingness to tackle national problems that many others consider to be unsolvable. In one of the most remote areas of state, they have had the ingenuity and fortitude to carve out a niche in the nuclear industry to broaden their economic base. They understand the benefits not only to their local economy, but also to our country.

Therefore, I support the ELEA and its member cities and counties in their effort to establish a consolidated interim storage facility in southeastern New Mexico that will be regulated by the high safety and technical standards of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susana Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "M".

Susana Martinez  
Governor