

OILMEN, OILWOMEN AND FRIENDS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

February 3, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are oilmen, oilwomen and friends of the Permian Basin of West Texas and Eastern New Mexico, writing to bring to your attention an issue of great concern. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is now considering two permit applications to allow high level nuclear waste, mostly spent fuel from nuclear power plants across America, to be stored for at least forty years near the center of the Permian Basin's prolific oil and natural gas fields. These plans defy common sense.

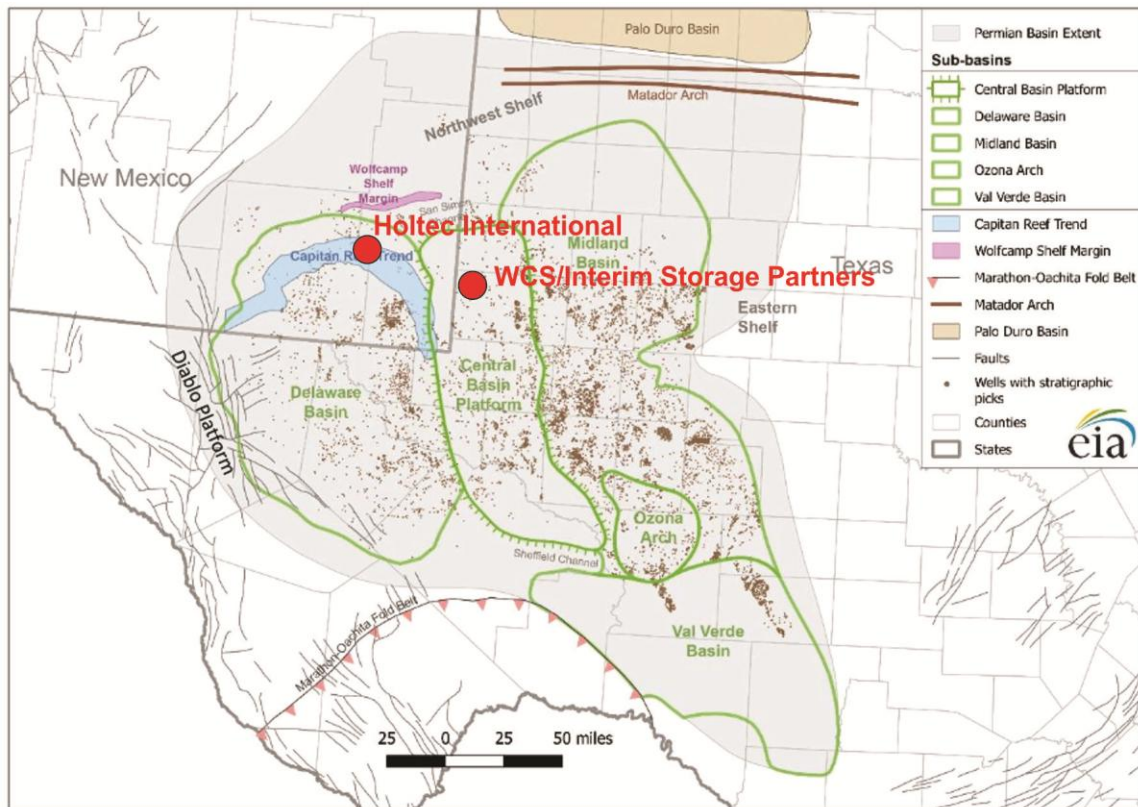
The Permian Basin's oil & gas renaissance has led the U.S. in becoming the largest producer of oil & gas in the world. The country depends on the Permian to keep energy costs down for consumers, the economy humming, and the nation energy independent and secure. Locating high level nuclear waste facilities in the heart of the Permian Basin puts this at risk.

Two relatively small companies, Waste Control Specialists/Interim Storage Partners (WCS/ISP) and Holtec International (Holtec), have submitted permit applications to store a total of approximately 210,000 metric tons of high level nuclear waste at two locations in the Permian (see location map below). To put this in perspective, collectively there are about 90,000 metric tons of spent fuel being temporarily stored at nuclear power plants across the country waiting for a permanent disposal solution. If the WCS/ISP and Holtec permits are issued, it appears that storage of most of America's high level nuclear waste (some of the most dangerous material in the world) will be consolidated in the Permian Basin. We understand that some of this deadly waste would be transported through heavily populated American cities.

We respectfully request that, for the good of the country, you do everything in your power to ensure that the WCS/ISP and Holtec permits are not granted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

We are all supporters of nuclear energy as one of the many domestic energy sources needed to power American Energy Security and Independence. However, placing high level nuclear waste in the heart of the Permian Basin oil fields puts our strategic oil and gas resources at risk unnecessarily. We are especially concerned that these poorly protected remote sites will become terrorist targets. This deadly material would be stored at and very near the surface at the WCS/ISP and Holtec sites. Taking out Permian oil production via a terrorist attack on one or both vulnerable storage sites would not only materially harm America but would benefit Iran and organizations funded by Middle East oil money by driving oil prices up.

Storage of nuclear waste in the Permian Basin is not the right option. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) guidebook on spent nuclear fuel advises that storage away from reactors should “avoid lands with exploitable mineral and energy resources.” In addition to the risk of a catastrophic radiation release caused by terrorism, sabotage, or operator error, the dry storage casks are susceptible to corrosion. A release would put our amazing Permian people and our strategic oil and gas production and resources at great risk. High winds and dust storms common in our region could worsen any catastrophe. A release would also likely contaminate some of our fresh water tables. We average only about 15 inches of rain a year in the Permian and thus water is also a very precious natural resource.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration based on DrillingInfo Inc., U.S. Geological Survey.

Those of us leading this fight are available to brief and consult with you and your staff any time. We are also looking forward to your upcoming visit to the Permian Basin. Would it be possible to schedule a brief meeting of Permian Basin leadership with you and your staff in Washington, D.C. or when you visit Midland/Odessa?

Thank you, Mr. President, for your most effective and historic service to America, and for your help with this very important matter!

Most respectfully,

LIST OF SIGNATORS HERE

OILMEN, OILWOMEN AND FRIENDS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

February 3, 2020

I, the undersigned, am a signatory to the Oilmen, Oilwomen and Friends of the Permian Basin Letter to President Trump dated February 3, 2020.

By: _____

Print Name _____

Title _____

Company _____

City, State _____

Email Address _____