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STATEMENT OF CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY (CCNS) TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CONSENT-BASED SITING INITIATIVE Sacramento, California - April 26, 2016

Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS) is a non-governmental organization based in Santa Fe, New Mexico -- a state with no nuclear power plants, but with a long history of having the Department of Energy (DOE) and its corporate contractors break their promises of safety at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

DOE also has tried to ignore federal and state laws that limit WIPP's mission. WIPP is a pilot project to demonstrate that salt can isolate the defense transuranic (plutonium) radioactive wastes for 10,000 years. Yet, DOE currently has five formal expansion proposals for disposal of surplus plutonium, Greater-than-Class C low-level wastes, commercial transuranic wastes, high-level radioactive wastes and surface storage of mercury waste at WIPP. This is an important lesson for communities thinking about "consenting" to DOE – DOE breaks its promises.

For over 35 years, New Mexico has told DOE and the nuclear corporations that it DOES NOT CONSENT to commercial irradiated nuclear fuel and defense high-level waste being stored or disposed in the state. In fact, Section 12 of the WIPP Land Withdrawal Act states, "The Secretary [of DOE] shall not transport high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel to WIPP or emplace or dispose of such waste or fuel at WIPP." Yet DOE continues to ignore the law and continues to push for expansion of WIPP even though it has failed in its "start clean, stay clean" mission.

DOE's "consent-based siting" is a sham, since it wants to offer incentive packages for volunteer sites, including to a few people with the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance in southeastern New Mexico and the nuclear corporation, Holtec. Congress should not provide funding for the incentives.



The DOE "consent" process is to BOTH get the Eddy-Lea Energy Alliance and its neighbor on the Texas side of the border, Waste Control Specialists (WCS), to "volunteer" for consolidated interim storage and for a volunteer defense high-level waste repository at WIPP.

Further, Congress should not change the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) to allow waste to be transported to consolidated interim storage sites before a disposal site is approved.

Finally, DOE should publicly affirm that states that do not consent will be excluded from any future nuclear facility siting processes.