

March 7, 2026

Department of Environmental Quality,

Utah has been selected for "Operation Gigawatt" the first in a series of planned Holtec nuclear reactors across the Wasatch front and down into dehydrated Southern Utah. I am reaching out to you with the following question as both a citizen and a Cybersecurity Information Security officer residing in Salt Lake City, Utah.

What is the projected health of the Great Salt Lake including elevation, toxic dust exposure, brine shrimp viability, and lake-effect precipitation at operational license end and at 100, 300, and 1,000 years post-shutdown, accounting for 8.97 gigawatts of continuous waste heat into a terminal basin with no thermal exit pathway, the 43-percent probability of a Wasatch Fault magnitude 6.75 seismic event within 50 years, and simultaneous cooling water loss and radiological release into the primary water supply of 80 percent of Utah's population and who is liable for the irreversible harm across the full decay timeline?

The first of the proposed Operation Gigawatt sites is located in Brigham City, Utah. The selected SMR-300 site is located on the Wasatch fault within a city whose western boundary is the Bear River Bay of the Great Salt Lake and whose limits contain the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge Visitor Center. The 24.2 square miles has a radius of approximately 2.75 from the center of Brigham City. With the lake forming on the western boundary and the eastern edge of the city center is at most roughly 5 miles from the lakeshore. Given that most industrial sites are closer to infrastructure corridors (the i15 which runs through the city) through simple geometry we can observe the SMR-300 placement site is within 1 - 3 miles of the refugee site.

Further the proposed nuclear fleet runs along the Wasatch Fault which is a 240 miles directly beneath Utah's entire urban corridor from Idaho in the north through Ogden, Salt Lake City, and Provo to Nephi in the south placing 80 percent of Utah's population and 75 percent of its economy within 15 miles of a fault system whose rock has been measured as frictionally weaker than standard models assumed, and whose surface displacement of up to 20 feet would sever the cooling water infrastructure on which passive nuclear safety depends across a 240-mile failure corridor. In 2020 Utah experienced a magnitude 5.7 earthquake which I felt all the way down in Utah County, and The Salt Lake Temple is undergoing a massive seismic retrofit designed to withstand a ~7.3 magnitude earthquake after analysis was performed disclosing the conditions for a 6.0 magnitude earthquake not far from the selected locations of the Nuclear Reactors. The Utah Geological Survey named Brigham City by name as one of the two highest-risk locations on the fault.

The Department of Environmental Quality, holds authority over water quality standards, discharge permitting, and air quality regulation for the Great Salt Lake basin. A continuous 8.97-gigawatt thermal discharge into a terminal basin with no thermal exit pathway permanently elevates water temperature, accelerates evaporation, concentrates salinity, and degrades the aquatic chemistry on which brine shrimp viability of Great Salt Lakes ecosystem

depends. The accelerated lake recession directly expands the exposed lakebed surface area responsible for the toxic dust and PM2.5 emissions. This inquiry requests assessment the water quality and air quality implications of the proposed thermal discharge, identify applicable state standards, and confirm whether any discharge authorization, air quality review, or cumulative impact assessment has been initiated or requested in connection with the proposed deployment.

The Great Salt Lake is dehydrating at such a rate the President of the United States on February 23, 2026, named the Great Salt Lake “a real environmental disaster” and promised the people of Utah he would do ALL to save the Great Salt Lake and as the Planetary Information Security Officer at Infoton and an 8th generation prominent Utahn, I have committed to do the same.

1. National Environmental Policy Act 42 U.S.C. § 4332, 2, C, i, ii, v,
2. Migratory Bird Treaty Act 16 U.S.C. §§ 703–712
3. Clean Air Act 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.,
4. Clean Water Act Thermal Discharge 33 U.S.C. § 1326, 316, a,
5. Atomic Energy Act Public Liability 42 U.S.C. § 2014, § 7407, § 7409, § 2210
6. National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act 16 U.S.C. § 668dd

The federal government's acquisition of 22,311 acres Utah 2026 Legislative Session, March 6, means Governor Spencer J. Cox and closed-door collaborators of Operation Gigawatt in a dehydrating region the federal government acquired for restoration purposes. The statutory framework governing that property 16 U.S.C. § 668dd, and 42 U.S.C. § 9601 creates direct federal land management and liability obligations that did not exist prior to this transfer.

1. Federal Land Policy and Management Act 43 U.S.C. § 1701 et seq.
2. The Refuge Compatibility Standard 50 C.F.R. § 29.1
3. CERCLA / Superfund 42 U.S.C. § 9601 et seq.
4. National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, a, 4, B, 1997, 16 U.S.C. § 668dd

This inquiry has been submitted simultaneously to all agencies with potential jurisdiction. Referral to another agency will not substitute for a direct response from this office. A written response is requested within 30 [non-business] days of receipt with the name and title of the agency official responsible for the response. Absent a substantive response within that period, this inquiry and the non-response will be submitted to the relevant congressional oversight committees and entered into the public record.

Thank you for your expedited response,

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Citizen Salt Lake City, Utah

Executive, Infoton

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Citations

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2. Wasatch Fault — Wikipedia, citing Utah Office of Emergency Services. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wasatch_Fault
3. Shreedharan, S. et al. (2025). Frictional properties of the Brigham City segment of the Wasatch fault zone. *Geology*, 53(8), 616–620.
4. USGS, *How Big and How Frequent Are Earthquakes on the Wasatch Fault?* <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/earthquake-hazards/science/how-big-and-how-frequent-are-earthquakes-wasatch-fault>
5. Utah Geological Survey. <https://geology.utah.gov/5-7-magnitude-earthquake-hits-utah/>
6. Deseret News. <https://www.deseret.com/2019/4/19/20671272/here-s-how-the-salt-lake-temple-s-base-isolation-system-will-protect-it-from-earthquakes/>
7. Utah Dispatch Trump promises to work with Utah to make its salt lake ‘great again’ <https://utahnewsdispatch.com/2026/02/23/trump-promises-to-work-with-utah-make-salt-lake-great-again/>
8. NEWS RELEASE: Gov. Cox unveils ‘Operation Gigawatt’ <https://governor.utah.gov/press/news-release-gov-cox-unveils-operation-gigawatt/>
9. What is Invictus Sovereign’s Role in Utah’s Energy Future? <https://invictussovereign.com/general-partners/>
10. United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Protecting the People and the Environment, SMR, LLC (A Holtec International Company) <https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/advanced/who-were-working-with/pre-application-activities/holtec>
11. United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Adam Public Search <https://adams-search.nrc.gov/home>