evaluating the removal of commercial spent fuel from shutdown nuclear power plant sites and to evaluating sites that store DOE-managed spent fuel and HLW. It was also recommended that the DOE share the results of such evaluations with operators of waste storage sites so that they can apply lessons learned, retain critical site transportation infrastructure, and be better prepared for the eventual transportation of the wastes.

■ That the DOE allow for a minimum of a decade to develop new cask and canister designs for spent fuel and HLW storage and transportation, or that the department conduct its own detailed evaluation of the time needed to complete the design, licensing, fabrication, and testing of new casks and canisters.

The NWTRB's report does not consider an exact destination for the waste or potential transportation routes. It also does not consider institutional or social issues, such as nuclear waste policy, funding, or public outreach, focusing on technical and scientific issues only.

The full report, *Preparing for Nuclear Waste Transportation: Technical Issues That Need to Be Addressed in Preparing for a Nationwide Effort to Transport Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste*, can be accessed online at <www.nwtrb.gov/our-work/reports>.

Photo: Holtec

Workers conduct cold testing of the operability of Ukraine's ISF-2.

CHERNOBYL

Cold testing of spent fuel storage facility completed

Holtec International announced on September 23 that its project team has completed the comprehensive pre-commissioning program, known as cold tests, for the Chernobyl Interim Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage Facility (ISF-2) in Ukraine. According to Holtec, the completion of cold testing, marked by the demonstration of full functionality of ISF-2 with no major issues or impediments to licensed operation, was confirmed during a September 6 meeting of the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine.

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