

Commenting on the Scope of the EIS

How to Comment on the Scope of the NRC's Environmental Impact Statement for a Proposed Consolidated Interim Storage Facility for Spent Nuclear Fuel at the Waste Control Specialists LLC Site in Andrews County, Texas

The NRC is conducting its environmental review for a proposed Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) for spent nuclear fuel at the Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS) site in Andrews County, Texas, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The NRC is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) and is requesting public comments on the scope of this EIS.

Why is NRC requesting comments?

The NRC announced its intent to prepare the EIS on November 14, 2016, and seeks public input on the scope of the EIS. The NRC's announcement can be found at <https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1632/ML16320A190.pdf>.

The scoping process is intended to help:

- Define the proposed action for the EIS;
- Determine the scope of the EIS and identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth;
- Identify and eliminate from detailed study issues which are peripheral or are not significant or which have been covered by prior environmental review; and
- Identify other environmental review and consultation requirements related to the proposed action.

What kind of input is NRC looking for?

The NRC typically focuses its environmental reviews on the following environmental resources: air quality, water quality, ecological resources, historic and cultural resources, land use, transportation, soil and geology, socioeconomics and environmental justice, public and occupational health, noise, visual and scenic resources, and waste management.

The NRC is requesting information and input about what should be included or excluded from the scope of the EIS. Some examples of information NRC is requesting are:

- What issues are most important to analyze in detail in the EIS, and why?
- What reasonable alternatives to the proposed action should be analyzed, and why?
- What site-specific characteristics should be considered in the environmental analysis?
- What local sources of information should the NRC consider? (Examples include local information about subsistence living, important site features, etc.)
- What kind of information should NRC consider with regard to historic properties that may be affected by the proposed project?
- What issues or alternatives should be eliminated from detailed consideration, and why?

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Where can I find information about the NRC's review?

The NRC has set up a public web page for WCS' application for the CISF at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/cis/waste-control-specialist.html>. The web page contains links to the WCS application, the NRC's request for supplemental information and WCS's responses, and the NRC's letter to WCS accepting the application for detailed review. The NRC will periodically update the web page as its review progresses.

What are the next steps?

After the close of the scoping period, the NRC staff will collect all comments submitted, organize them according to subject, and summarize the input received. The staff will then issue a scoping summary report that provides a concise summary of the determinations and conclusions the NRC staff reached, including the significant issues identified. The report will be available on the NRC's web page for the WCS application.

Next, the NRC will then take the following steps in its EIS process:

- The NRC will continue preparing the EIS with consideration of the scoping comments.
- The NRC will publish the EIS in draft form for public review and comment.
- The NRC will revise the draft EIS, as appropriate, based on the comments received.
- The NRC will publish a final EIS and make it publicly available.

The NRC also is conducting a detailed safety review, and the results of that review will be documented in a safety evaluation report. The NRC will make its licensing decision on WCS's application based on the results of both the safety review and the environmental review.

How can I submit my comments?

The NRC is accepting comments in the following ways:

Post comments to the Federal Rulemaking Website: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and search for documents filed under Docket ID NRC-2016-0231. Click on the comment icon and complete the web form.

E-mail comments to NRC: You may email scoping comments to the Project's email address: WCS_CISF_EIS@nrc.gov.

Mail comments to: Cindy Bladey, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: OWFN-12-H08, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Comment at a public meeting: Attendees are invited to speak on the record at public scoping meetings (transcriptions are publicly available). (To see the public meeting schedule, visit <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg>.)

Remember to include Docket ID NRC-2016-0231 in the subject line of written comments.

Scoping comments should be submitted by **March 13, 2017**, to ensure consideration. All comments are considered equally, regardless of how they are submitted.