

Introduction to the Proposed Consolidated Interim Storage Facility for Spent Nuclear Fuel at the Waste Control Specialists LLC Site in Andrews County, Texas

Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS) is currently licensed and authorized by the State of Texas [under agreement with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)] to treat, store, and dispose of certain types of radioactive materials within approximately 5,666 ha [14,000 ac] of land it controls in Andrews County, Texas. Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 provides the statutory basis for the State of Texas to assume NRC's regulatory authority to license and regulate the following types of radioactive materials at the WCS facilities:

- WCS operates two facilities authorized to dispose of Class A, B, and C Low-Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW). Additional information about classification of these wastes can be found in 10 CFR 61.55.
 - The Texas Compact Disposal Facility (CWF) serves the Texas Compact (Texas and Vermont).
 - The Federal Waste Disposal Facility (FWF) serves the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).
- WCS is licensed to dispose of byproduct materials at its Byproduct Material Disposal Facility. "Byproduct material" is defined by the Texas Health and Safety Code Section 401.003(3)(B) and 25 TAC 289.260(C)(4) as tailings or wastes produced by or resulting from the extraction or concentration of uranium and thorium from any ore process primarily for its source material content.
- WCS also has authorizations and permits for receipt, treatment, storage, and landfill disposal of hazardous waste and radioactive material defined as "Exempt" pursuant to Title 25 Texas Administrative Code Part 289. "Exempt radioactive material" is defined by 25 TAC 289.201(c)(1) as a source of radiation that will not result in a significant risk to public health and safety and the environment.

WCS's License Request

On April 28, 2016, WCS submitted an application, including a Safety Analysis Report (SAR) and Environmental Report (ER), requesting that the NRC grant a license to WCS for the construction and operation of a Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) for spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and reactor-related Greater than Class C (GTCC) low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) generated at commercial nuclear power reactors. The application is available at: <https://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/cis/waste-control-specialist.html>.

- The proposed CISF would be located on approximately 130 ha [320 ac] of the WCS site, just north of WCS's current disposal facilities.
- In its license application, WCS requests NRC authorization to store 5,000 metric tons uranium (MTU) for a license period of 40 years.
- WCS has expressed its intent to request license amendments to eventually store up to 40,000 MTUs in the CISF.

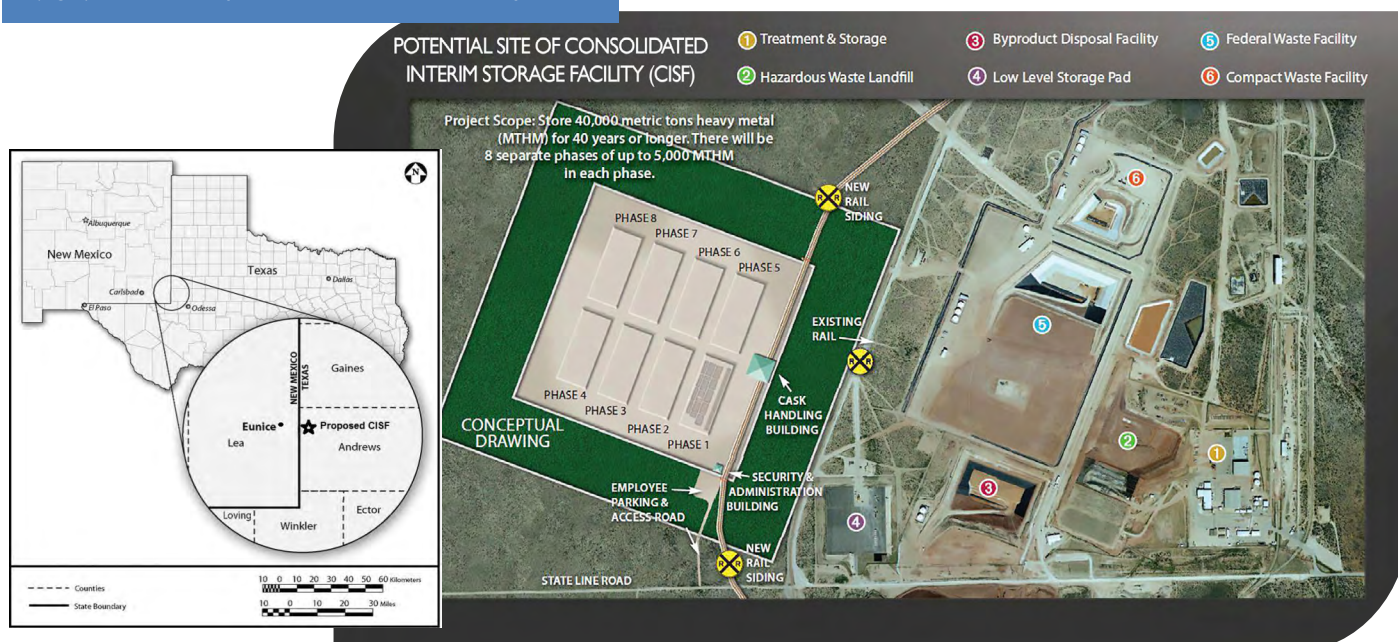
NRC's Role and Licensing Action Review

The NRC licenses and regulates the nation's civilian use of radioactive materials to protect public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment.

- The NRC review of WCS's request consists of a safety review and an environmental review to support a final licensing decision.
 - **Safety Review** – A Safety Evaluation Report (SER) documents the NRC's evaluation of the radiological consequences of WCS's proposed action to determine if that action can be accomplished safely and securely. The NRC will review the application per its regulations at 10 CFR Part 72.
 - **Environmental Review** – The NRC's EIS provides its licensing decision-maker and the public with a thorough independent evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. The NRC will prepare its EIS consistent with its regulations in 10 CFR Part 51.

- The Proposed Action and Potential Reasonable Alternatives to be evaluated in detail in the EIS include:
 - **Proposed Action** – WCS would construct and operate a CISF in Andrews County, Texas. SNF and GTCC LLRW at commercial reactor sites would be placed into transportation casks, transported to the CISF via rail, unloaded, and transferred into storage cask systems, and the storage systems placed on concrete storage pads in the CISF.
 - **No Action** – WCS would not construct and operate a CISF at its site in Andrews County, Texas. SNF and GTCC LLRW would remain at commercial nuclear reactor sites (in either dry or wet storage).
 - **Other Alternative(s)** – To be potentially identified through the EIS scoping process and NRC analysis.
 - **NRC Evaluation** – The NRC will evaluate the environmental and cumulative impacts of WCS's proposed action and other reasonable foreseeable future actions.

Regional Location (left) and Conceptual Site Layout (right) of WCS's Proposed CISF in Andrews County, Texas



Conceptual Drawing of Deployed Storage Cask Systems at the Proposed CISF

