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11/14/2016
81 FR 79531

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

RE: Docket No. 72-1050; NRC-2016-0231 - Waste Control Specialists LLC's Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility Project

February 15, 2017

Dear Cindy Bladey and NRC,

The transport of high-level radioactive waste from around the country to Andrews County, Texas, puts the residents of West Texas and Southeastern New Mexico at risk, not to mention the risk to others along the transportation route. I live less than three blocks from one of the likely rail transport routes in Midland, Texas, where there have been multiple vehicle/train crashes in the past few years. Transport of this radioactive material through populated areas seems to invite accidents and risk of terrorist activity.

The proximity of the site to the Ogallala Aquifer and to other groundwater sources is very disturbing given the importance of groundwater in this arid region of very little surface water and scant rainfall. Contamination of the Ogallala Aquifer would impact multiple states, not just its southern border in West Texas.

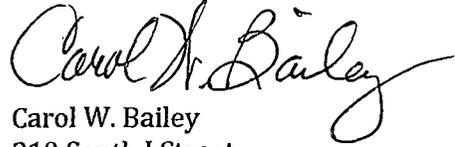
There seems to be no advance planning for handling of a cracked or leaking canister. We have already experienced this scenario at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, New Mexico. That leakage was below ground. The fact that WCS would store the material above ground is even more troubling given the vulnerability of above ground storage to possible terrorist activity and extreme weather and wildfire risks. West Texas is subject to earthquakes, tornados, wildfires, and temperature extremes, all of which could impact this above ground storage site.

High-level radioactive waste should be stored in a permanent safe underground repository and not transported around the country to this supposed temporary storage site. WCS assured the residents in the area that it would only store low-level radioactive waste when it first sought approval to become a waste site. Now that they are seeking to store high-level waste from around the country, I am concerned that temporary could turn into permanent storage at this risky site.

I am strongly opposed to this area of the country becoming a dumping ground for the nation's nuclear waste.

Please host a public hearing on the WCS application so that residents put at risk by this proposal can address the NRC on this important issue.

Sincerely,



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