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Waste Control Specialists LLC's Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility Project

Comment On: NRC-2016-0231-0005

Environmental Reviews: Waste Control Specialists, LLC; Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility Project

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General Comment

I wish to comment on Docket ID NRC-2016-0231, having to do with storing high-level nuclear waste at the Waste Control Specialists site in Andrews, Texas. I believe this would be a terrible decision with possibly disastrous results, for the following reasons:

- 1) The spent fuel is to be held in concrete canisters, above ground, in what the company describes as a secure facility. Being above ground, however, leaves this very dangerous material vulnerable to a determined terrorist attack that could easily contaminate thousands of acres of Texas and New Mexico at the very least, as well as the Ogallala Aquifer, which runs beneath it and is the single most important source of water for the entire High Plains region of the United States, feeding 94% of agriculture in the region from Texas to South Dakota.
- 2) Waste Control Specialists has requested a 40 year license. This high-level waste will be radioactive and exceptionally dangerous for thousands of years. Although the Andrews site is officially called an "interim" site, there will very likely be nowhere else to take these concrete canisters of high-level nuclear waste in 40 years, and they will remain right here in Andrews. This "40 year" license will most likely have to be renewed ad infinitum, and this site will turn into a permanent site. This is a foreseeable result of granting a limited time license and should therefore be avoided.
- 3) Finally, the transport of the high-level waste by truck and by rail will require transport through highly populated areas of Texas, putting millions of people at risk of radioactive contamination by a simple accident. Truck and rail accidents happen all the time - it would be dishonest for any transportation company to try to

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assure Texas and other states through which this waste must pass that such accident would never occur. In summary, this nuclear waste should stay where it is. It is safe there. It does not need to travel through populated areas, and it can be thoroughly guarded in place. I highly recommend AGAINST this project.