

## **WCS\_CISFEISCEm Resource**

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**From:** Karen Howard-Winters <leewint@grandecom.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2017 4:50 PM  
**To:** WCS\_CISFEIS Resource  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] NCR Scoping Letter RE: WCS License for (Interim) High-Level Radioactive Waste Site in Andrews, Texas  
**Attachments:** NRC scoping letter to WCS March 9 2017-1 - Odessa.docx

Good Afternoon.

Attached is my letter to Cindy Bladey at the Office of Administration at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in regard to the proposed license for Waste Control Specialists to accept High-Level Radioactive Waste at their Site in Andrews, Texas for her review.

This is an area of grave concern and the NRC has not had a Public Forum in either of the two largest populated cities in this region – Midland or Odessa, Texas -- together housing 250,000 people. If you count the people in Ector and Midland Counties, that number grows to 350,000. That's a lot of people not to know about this happening and to have an opportunity for input and a direct connection to the NRC – especially when some of them have water wells that connect directly to the Ogallala Aquifer.

Please contact me if you have questions. My landline is 432.367.0565 and my cell/text is 432.212.2664.

Thank you for your time in this very serious matter.

Sincerely,  
Karen Howard-Winters

**Federal Register Notice:** 81FR79531  
**Comment Number:** 6165

**Mail Envelope Properties** (029b01d29c3b\$7184ae50\$548e0af0\$)

**Subject:** [External\_Sender] NCR Scoping Letter RE: WCS License for (Interim) High-Level  
Radioactive Waste Site in Andrews, Texas  
**Sent Date:** 3/13/2017 4:50:25 PM  
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# *KAREN J. HOWARD-WINTERS*

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1214 Alpine, Odessa, Texas 79762-5621 ♦ 432.367.0565 ♦ fax 432.362.8018 ♦ cell 432.212.2664  
Email: [leewint@grandecom.net](mailto:leewint@grandecom.net)

March 11, 2017

Cindy Bladey  
Office of Administration  
Mail Stop: OWFN-12-HO8  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
Washington, DC 20555-0001;

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

Dear Cindy Bladey and NRC,

Waste Control Specialists' (WCS) application to import tons of spent fuel, high-level radioactive waste, from nuclear reactors around the country and store it in Andrews County for 40 years (or longer) should be halted in order to protect public health and safety.

The Environmental Impact Statement should include transportation routes and the potential impacts of accidents or terrorism incidents along those routes on public health and safety. If the license gets approved, deadly waste would be transported through our region for more than 20 years. Even one small accident would be one too many. We hear assurances that accident damage would be minimal, but real life disasters have been known to exceed the worst anticipated scenarios. A 2014 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality report warns of potential sabotage of radioactive waste shipments, saying that such an incident would most likely occur in a large city rather than a rural area. Terrorist actions involving radioactive waste in Dallas/ Ft. Worth would be an unimaginable nightmare.

The EIS should look closely into the risk of groundwater contamination at the site, especially since the entire TCEQ Radioactive Materials Division recommended denying a license for "low-level" radioactive waste at the Waste Control Specialists site due to the proximity of groundwater. The EIS should consider potential impacts from accidents or radioactive waste related terrorist actions along transport routes, including impacts to people, land and water. In-depth research should examine radiation monitoring and cumulative impacts of multiple facilities near the WCS site, site security, engineering adequacy of the storage pad and seismic stresses, the adequacy of the crane that would move radioactive waste.

The report should include exactly how radioactive waste from a cracked and leaking canister would be handled, as it appears there would be no wet pool or hot cell built and

it appears that no one knows yet how to transfer waste from dry cask to dry cask. WCS should have to explain how this would be accomplished and not just say they'll figure it out when the problem arises.

Please know that I don't consent to our state becoming a national radioactive waste dumping ground. We should not have to risk contamination of our land, aquifers or air or the health of plants, wildlife and livestock. Human exposure to high-level radioactive waste can lead to immediate death. Homeowners' insurance doesn't cover radioactive contamination. A single rail car could haul waste containing as much plutonium as the bomb dropped on Nagasaki. We've had train accidents in our region. 2015, a train derailed in our region – in Corsicana, Texas - after floodwaters washed out the track, and trains have collided head-on in West Texas at 65 mph.

Storing the nation's high-level radioactive waste in an area that is largely Hispanic would be a huge environmental injustice, and the impacts to the nearest communities and within a 50-mile radius of the site need to be carefully analyzed. Income levels should be examined as well in the socioeconomic analysis.

The environmental report should address the impacts of "interim storage" at the site becoming a dangerous permanent de facto disposal. With political pressure gone, the waste would likely never move again. Above-ground casks would be exposed to the weathering effects of temperature extremes, and potential wildfires, tornadoes and earthquakes. At what point could the waste go critical?

I live just outside the 50-mile radius of this site; however, I am gravely concerned of the impact this site would have on my underground water supply, air quality, the health of my companion animals and my property value. I don't want these railcars passing through Odessa or Midland. I don't want this here.

Reps. Mike Conaway and Darrell Issa who brought HR474 to the House in regard to the transportation of this high-level radioactive material over our country's railways and highways do not live here, so they do not care what happens to the people, animals or environment that do. Let's put this in their backyard if they want it so badly.

Please host a hearing on the WCS application in the Odessa/Midland area so that Texans who would be put at risk can address the NRC on this important issue. I would appreciate a written response.

Thank you for your time and attention to this very serious matter.

Sincerely,

*Karen Howard-Winters*

/KHW