

WCS_CISFEISCEm Resource

From: Cheryl Gross <honey4086@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 5:19 PM
To: WCS_CISFEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] Docket ID NRC=2016-023

To the Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

The proposal of Waste Control Specialists' (WCS) to store tons of irradiated nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste in Andrews County is deeply flawed.

If approved, 40,000 tons of irradiated fuel rods from nuclear reactors around the country could be transported through major cities and farmlands to be stored for 40 years or longer, apparently on a concrete pad.

The selected site is intrinsically unsuitable, as the aquifer is only about 14 feet below the surface. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Radioactive Materials Division unanimously recommended denying a license for "low-level" radioactive waste at the site due to the proximity of groundwater.

Should this major negative factor be ignored, an in-depth evaluation of potential impacts must be conducted, including site security, engineering adequacy of the storage pad, seismic stresses, and the adequacy of equipment that would move radioactive waste.

Since there is hazardous and mixed waste at the WCS site, the EIS must review the multiple, additive, cumulative and synergistic effects of radioactivity and hazardous and mixed waste on workers and residents with varying susceptibilities to radiation, animals, plants, microbes, air, water, soil, and any other potentially impacted life forms and natural resources. The issues of critical mass, potential contact and interaction with other radioactive waste and hazardous materials at the WCS site, and the cumulative impacts of waste at this site and nearby sites on workers, local inhabitants and the environment must be addressed. Since above-ground casks would be exposed to the effects of temperature extremes and potential fires, tornadoes and earthquakes, the effect of these natural phenomenon on other potential impacts must be evaluated.

The site has not been designed or evaluated for permanent isolation. The EIS must address the impacts of "interim storage" becoming permanent, since the waste may never be disposed of in a more suitable geologic repository using a reliable isolation system.

The potential impacts of this disposal project would extend far beyond the site itself, the aquifer and surrounding areas. Nuclear waste would have to be transported long distances both to the site and from it if the site is closed in the future. The transportation routes and methods must be identified and potential impacts on communities and their residents, farmland, natural areas, wildlife and watersheds due to accidents or attacks that could occur along those routes must be evaluated.

It is likely much of the waste will be transported by train. There have been serious train accidents in recent years, including near the WCS site. Just last year, two trains collided in West Texas at 65 mph. However, cask testing has only been conducted for accidents up to 60 mph. This lack of data must be addressed.

Communities along transport routes and near the waste site need their questions answered and a proper forum for their input. The public comment period should be extended and public meetings held in transport corridor communities to allow those who would be put at risk to address the NRC with their concerns and demands.

Sincerely,

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