

WCS_CISFEISCEm Resource

From: Diane D'Arrigo <dianed@nirs.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2017 12:02 AM
To: WCS_CISFEIS Resource
Subject: [External_Sender] Docket ID NRC=2016-0231

Comment:Objection of
Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) on
Environmental Impact Statement Scoping
for Waste Control Specialists (WCS)
Proposed High Level Radioactive Waste Consolidated Storage Site in Andrews County, TX
Docket ID NRC=2016-0231
April 28, 2017

Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) reserves the right to provide full scoping comments if the license application process is restarted for a Consolidated Storage Site at Waste Control Specialists in Texas. On April 18, 2017, WCS requested that the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) suspend the licensing process: "WCS respectfully requests that the NRC temporarily suspend all safety and environmental review activities as well as public participation activities associated with WCS' license application for a period commencing on the date of this letter and continuing until the completion of the sale of WCS to EnergySolutions, which we currently believe to be by late summer 2017."

Part of the stated reason is their inability to pay for the NRC review and their weak financial condition. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has not ruled on the suspension request but the Environmental Impact Statement comment deadline is here and deadline to intervene in the licensing process is approaching. Effectively, these deadlines are moot if the company paying for the licensing process is requesting suspension and is unable to cover the application processing costs of the NRC, let alone be financial strong enough to run a high level waste/irradiated nuclear fuel storage site. The NRC should clarify the suspension of the public process. It seems highly inequitable that both NRC and WCS can suspend their own legal and technical actions, but the public would be required to continue, expending the significant effort to provide the comments on the EIS scoping and full contentions, even though the process is being suspended and may not be continued. It seems highly unlikely that NRC could deny the request to suspend because WCS is paying for the process thus it would not be funded. The public is being left in limbo to provide comments and contentions.

We object to this and continue to call on NRC to stop the process. In addition, we have previously shown the process to be illegal under the existing federal Nuclear Waste Policy Act. (letter from Attorney Diane Curran)

Federal Register Notice: 81FR79531
Comment Number: 16224

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