



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001**

May 10, 2017

Mr. Michael Ford
Vice President of Licensing
and Corporate Compliance
Waste Control Specialists, LLC
5430 LBJ Freeway, Ste. 1700
Three Lincoln Centre
Dallas, TX 75240

SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE REVIEW SUSPENSION REQUEST FOR THE LICENSE APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY FOR SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL IN ANDREWS COUNTY, DOCKET NO. 72-1050.

Dear Mr. Ford:

By letter dated April 18, 2017, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML17110A206), Waste Control Specialists, LLC (WCS) submitted a request to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to 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 WCS' request and continuing until the completion of the sale of WCS to Energy Solutions, which WCS currently believes to be by late summer 2017.

This letter is an acknowledgement that we are granting your request. Since receipt of the letter, the NRC staff has been taking appropriate actions to suspend the review. The staff will preserve the current state of the review to ensure the information is readily accessible to the staff when or if WCS seeks to resume the review.

WCS also requested that the NRC suspend the deadlines for both environmental scoping comments and opportunities to submit hearing requests. With respect to the environmental scoping period, staff considered the relative merit and timelines associated with suspending the period for receiving comments on the environmental scoping, and weighed that against allowing the period to close on the planned date of April 28 and determined that it would be appropriate to allow the scoping period to close as scheduled. With respect to the request to suspend the opportunity to request a hearing, WCS and NRC staff jointly requested that the Commission withdraw the Hearing Notice for this proceeding. The Commission is currently considering the hearing withdrawal request.

Some charges have accrued and additional charges will occur as the staff completes addressing the WCS request. Staff will keep the WCS Cost Activity Codes (CACs) open until late summer 2017, but will closely monitor the CACs to ensure no additional charges accrue following the completion of the suspension activities. After that, the NRC staff will evaluate the appropriateness of maintaining the CACs for the review. WCS should keep the NRC apprised of changes to its plan to resume the review and should provide as much advance notice as

possible of a target date for resuming the review, to enable the staff to allocate resources.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure" a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John-Chau Nguyen, Sr. Project Manager
Spent Fuel Licensing Branch
Division of Spent Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 72-1050
CACs Nos.: L25175, L00908,
and L25112

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 DOCKET NO. 72-1050. DATE: MAY 10, 2017

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ADAMS P8 Accession No.: ML17129A314

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