



## CITY OF JAL

JAL, NEW MEXICO 88252

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To Whom it may concern,

The City of Jal, New Mexico request the Nuclear Regulatory Commission consider extending the scoping period for the Interim Storage Partners (ISP) proposed facility in Andrews County, Texas. As the governing body of this small rural community, the Jal city council believes the change in ownership during the original scoping period has not allowed adequate public input for such a controversial siting for spent fuel. Should the extension for the scoping period be denied, the council believes it imperative a public meeting conducted by the NRC be held in Jal in the near future. The city has the facilities to host such a gathering and thinks it would be of great benefit not only for Jal citizens but for members of the surrounding communities that would be affected by such a site.

Jal sits some 22 miles south of the proposed ISP site. The potential siting would require the materials to pass by rails through the community. This is a matter of great concern as the railroads in this area were not designed to handle the massive weight of the canisters carrying the radioactive waste. Rail officials have noted as much. Additionally, rail officials have publicly indicated they do not have employees certified to deliver high level waste. Being in the center of the largest oil and gas play in the nation, the community has continuous rail traffic moving tank cars carrying hydrochloride acid, sand and other petroleum products on tracks that would be shared with the trains carrying HLW. The increase of large oilfield trucks using the highways in and around Jal and crossing the rails in three different areas in the community only makes the issue more hazardous. Such a situation is of great concern.

Proximity to the proposed site would require the city's protective services, fire and ambulance, to answer calls whether they be in the community or outside our normal coverage area. The fire and ambulance services in Jal are manned by volunteers from the community and are neither certified nor trained to answer calls involving situations where HLW may be involved. Resources to train and certify the volunteer forces are not available to the City in its regular budgeting process.

There has been little to no effort on the part of ISP to schedule meetings with the smaller rural communities in the area to inform the citizens of the plans to site HLW in Andrews County. Measures need to be taken to keep the folks in this area informed about the proposed site, materials to be transported, methods of storage and the longevity of storage at the site. Basically, folks think they have intentionally been kept in the dark.

With all the issues surrounding the safe transportation, handling, and storage of HLW at the proposed site the city of Jal respectfully requests every effort be taken by the NRC and ISP to schedule a public meeting in Jal. Residents in rural communities such as Jal deserve to have a clear understanding of how HLW may affect them.

Regards,

Stephen Aldridge  
City Mayor