# APPENDIX A
# SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

# SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STORAGE FACILITY ANDREWS COUNTY, TEXAS

**INTERIM STORAGE PARTNERS**

Prepared by:

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November 2019

Revision 5

## Contents

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**Appendices:**

## Figures



## Tables

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| ACS | American Community Survey |
| AIF | Andrews Industrial Foundation |
| APE | Area of Potential Effects |
| ARMS | Archeological Records Management Section |
| BLM | Bureau of Land Management |
| CISF | Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility |
| DHHS | U.S. Department of Health and Human Services |
| DOI | Department of Interior |
| EDCLC | Economic Development Corporation of Lea County |
| EJ | Environmental Justice |
| ISFS | Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility |
| LEP | Limited English Proficiency |
| NCHS | National Center for Health Statistics |
| NHPA | National Historic Preservation Act |
| NMCRIS | New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System |
| NMDH | New Mexico Department of Health |
| NM-EPHT | New Mexico's Environmental Public Health Tracking Network |
| NMHPD | New Mexico Historic Preservation Division |
| NM-IBIS | New Mexico Indicator-Based Information System |
| NRC | Nuclear Regulatory Commission |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| PRCC | Permian Residential Care Center |
| ROI | Region of Interest |
| RTHL | Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks |
| SAL | State Antiquities Landmark |
| SHPO | State Historic Preservation Officer |
| TARL | Texas Archeological Research Laboratory |
| THC | Texas Historical Commission |
| USDA | U.S. Department of Agriculture |
| WCS | Waste Control Specialists LLC |

## Introduction and Background

### Introduction

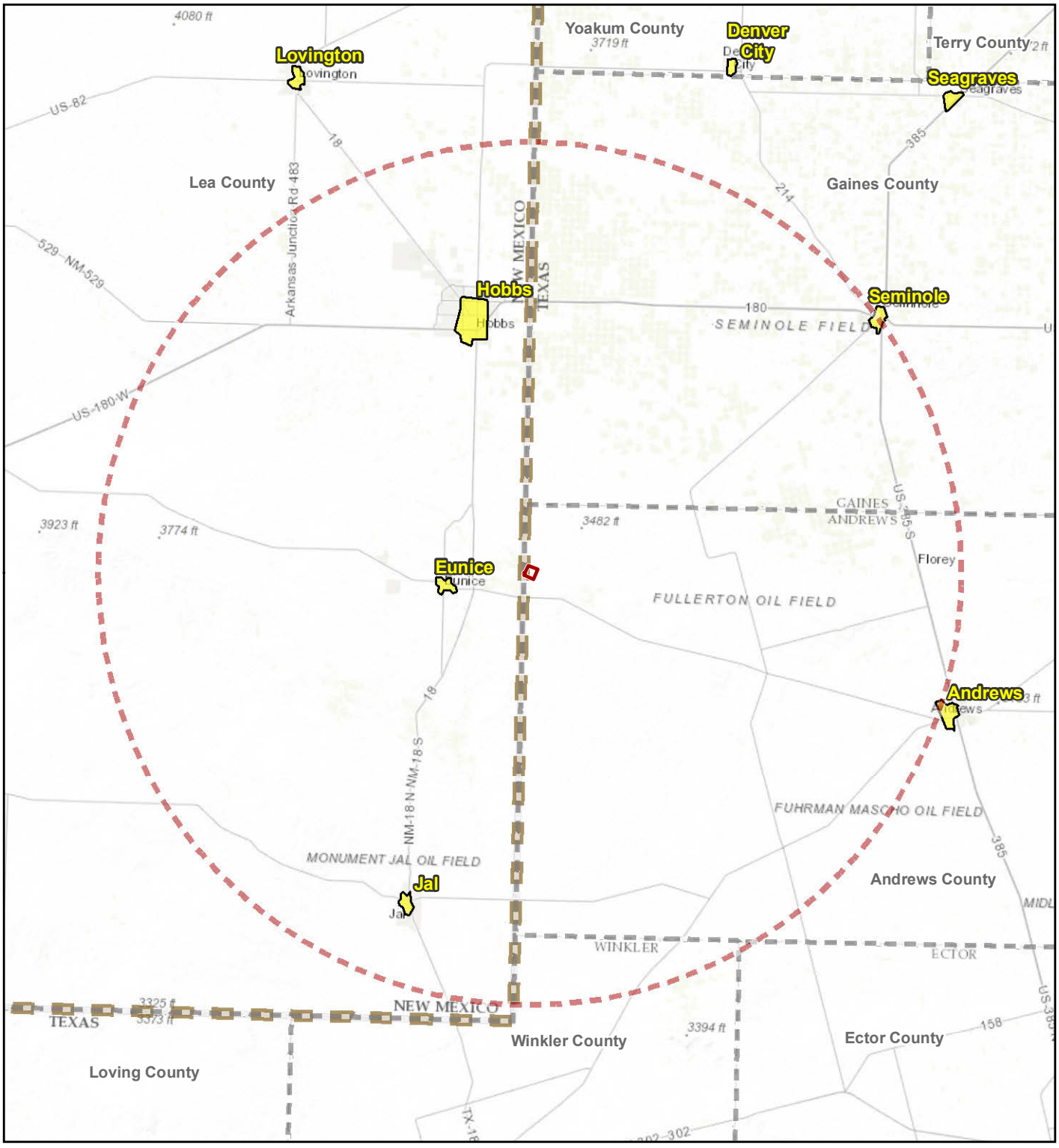
Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS) has an existing waste disposal facility with various licenses in Andrews County, Texas, near the border of Lea County, New Mexico, on State Highway 176. The site is approximately 30 miles northwest of the county seat of the city of Andrews (see **Figure 1a, Project Location Road Base,** and **Figure 1b, Project Location Aerial Base)**. Photographs of the current facility and proposed project site are in **Appendix A.**

### Background

Since 1997, WCS has been licensed and authorized to store, process, and dispose of certain types of radioactive materials at its facilities located in Andrews County, Texas. WCS is authorized to dispose of Class A, B, and C Low-Level Radioactive Waste at the Texas Compact Waste Disposal Facility and the Federal Waste Disposal Facility. WCS is also authorized to dispose of 11e (2) byproduct materials at its Byproduct Material Disposal Facility. These activities are regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) governed by regulations determined to be compatible, pursuant to Section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended in NUREG-0980 wherein the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) could delegate some licensing authority to the state level.

In January 20I0, President Barack Obama established the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. They were directed by the Secretary of Energy to conduct a comprehensive review of policies for managing the back end of the nuclear fuel cycle and recommend a new strategy. On January 26, 2012, the Blue Ribbon Commission issued a final report making recommendations consisting of eight key elements. Of paramount importance to this licensing action was the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendation to adopt a new consent-based approach to siting future nuclear waste management facilities in order to initiate prompt efforts to develop one or more consolidated storage facilities (Blue Ribbon Commission 2012).

Development of a spent nuclear fuel Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (CISF) has strong support from the state, regional, and local communities located in West Texas. In April 2014, Texas Governor Rick Perry called for a Texas solution for spent nuclear fuel generated at two reactor sites located in the state. On September 19, 2014, the Texas Radiation Advisory Board also issued a position stating it is in the state's best interest to request that the Federal Government consider Texas as a CISF site. On January 20, 2015, the Andrews County Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution in support of establishing a site in Andrews County, Texas, for the consolidated interim storage of spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste (see **Appendix B**).


Lovington
Denver City
Seagraves
Hobbs
Seminole
Eunice
Jal
Andrews
Yoakum County
Terry County
Lea County
Gaines County
Andrews County
Winkler County
Ector County
Loving County
NEW MEXICO
TEXAS
SEMINOLE FIELD
FULLERTON OIL FIELD
FUHRMAN MASCHO OIL FIELD
MONUMENT JAL OIL FIELD
WINKLER
ECTOR
GAINES
ANDREWS
Florey
US-82
US-180-W
NM-529
NM-18 N
NM-18 S
Arkansas Junction Rd 483
Project Location
30-mile Region of Interest
State Boundary
County Boundary
Andrews County
Project Area
Hobbs
Lea County
Andrews County
0 10 Miles
0 15 Kilometers
Figure 1a
Project Location - Road Base
Proposed Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility
COX | McLAIN Environmental Consulting
Prepared for: WCS
1 in = 10 miles
Scale: 1:633,600
Prepared by: SL
Date: 4/4/2016
Data Source: US Census Bureau (2010)
Basemap Source: ESRI (2014)
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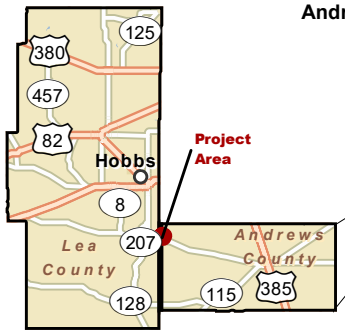
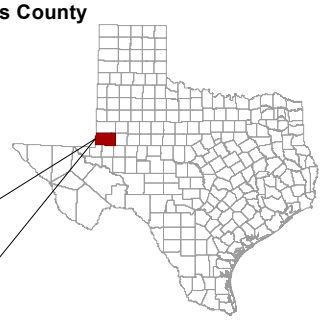
Project Location

30-mile Region of Interest

State Boundary

County Boundary




Data Source: US Census Bureau (2010)
Aerial Source: NAIP (2014)

G:\Projects\WCS\Figure 1b_Project Location_aerial_20160404.mxd

0 10 Miles
0 15 Kilometers

**Figure 1b**

**Project Location - Aerial Base**

**Proposed Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility**

COX | McLAIN Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 10 miles |
| | Scale: 1:633,600 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 4/4/2016 |

## Approach

WCS has prepared an Environmental Report (to which this document is attached) to evaluate the radiological and non-radiological impacts associated with the construction and operation of a CISF for spent nuclear fuel in Andrews County, Texas. This Environmental Report was prepared to support a License Application for review and approval by the NRC pursuant to the requirements specified in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR), Part 72, Licensing Requirements for the Independent Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel, High-Level Radioactive Waste, and Reactor-Related Greater Than Class C Waste.

WCS prepared the Environmental Report consistent with the guidance provided in:

- Regulatory Guide 3.50, Standard Format and Content for A Specific License Application for an Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation or Monitored Retrievable Storage Facility;
- NUREG-1748, Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated with Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) Programs; and
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] Sections 4321–4375) and implementing regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ, 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 1500).

Other documents were reviewed in the development of this report:

- NUREG-1790, Louisiana Energy Services National Enrichment Facility License Application – Environmental Report (Revision 5, 2005);
- Waste Control Specialists LLC, 2007. Socioeconomic Impacts of the Waste Control Specialists Proposed Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility, Andrews County, Texas, March 16, 2007; and
- Waste Control Specialists LLC, 2008. Socioeconomic Impacts of the Waste Control Specialists Radioactive Material Storage and Processing Facility, Andrews County, Texas for the Renewal of License No. R04971, July 3, 2008.

WCS is in the process of submitting the license application to construct and operate a CISF. WCS anticipates that the NRC may issue the Final Environmental Impact Statement and License within the next five years. WCS is planning for receipt and storage of spent nuclear fuel until the expiration of the license. Moreover, WCS anticipates continued storage for approximately up to 60 years or until a final geologic repository is licensed and operating in accordance with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended.

WCS has hired Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc. (CMEC) to conduct a socioeconomic impact assessment of the proposed CISF activities at the existing WCS facility. This assessment includes (1) background demographic, social, economic, and cultural resources information about the Region of Interest (ROI); (2) a focused assessment within a four-mile radius around the proposed

facility for Environmental Justice analysis; and (3) a social and economic impact assessment including sections on potential impacts from transportation and cumulative impacts.

CMEC utilized two general study areas for this analysis: a 30-mile ROI radius centered on the proposed site within the WCS property and a four-mile radius for the Environmental Justice Analysis. Study areas are discussed in the NRC's Environmental Justice Policy Statement (2003). Whereas NUREG-1748 uses 0.6 mile for analysis if the center of the site is in an urban area, and whereas the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) uses an analysis area of a 50-mile radius for regulatory actions involving power reactors, the current analysis includes 30 miles since it encompasses both the nearby community of Eunice, New Mexico and the county seat and center of many business operations related to the WCS activities in the city of Andrews, Texas. In the comment and response period on the NRC's proposed policy statement (2003) on Environmental Justice, NRC stated that "this policy statement does not address site-specific concerns. In accordance with NEPA, and consistent with Commission practice, the geographic area assessed for NEPA purposes will be commensurate with the potential impact area of the proposed activity" and "should include a sample of the surrounding population because the goal is to evaluate the communities, neighborhoods, and areas that may be disproportionately impacted." Therefore, the 30-mile ROI includes census geographies and political geographies such as county boundaries in order to provide a clear picture of the communities that would host the proposed disposal activities, and that would house workers who may be involved with construction or operation phases of the proposed CISF activities. The four-mile study area directly addresses the recommended analysis area for Environmental Justice considerations.

## Project Description

WCS is requesting authorization to construct and operate a CISF in Andrews County, Texas. The CISF will be located on approximately 100 acres of land (owner-controlled area) just north and adjacent to the WCS Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal facilities licensed by the TCEQ in accordance with Texas Radioactive Material License (RML) No. R04100.

Additionally, WCS is requesting authorization to store up to 40,000 metric tons of uranium (MTU). Approval to store up to 40,000 MTU at the CISF will not only accommodate complete decommissioning of the ten shutdown commercial reactors, but also provide a regulatory path forward to ultimately allow a transition for storing additional spent nuclear fuel from other reactors that may initiate decommissioning in the future.

WCS will use existing dry cask storage systems currently used at several operating commercial nuclear power plants in the United States and abroad. These dry cask storage systems store spent nuclear fuel inside of sealed canisters as opposed to a spent fuel pool. These dry cask storage systems are safe and confine radioactive materials thereby, minimizing the potential for the release of radioactive contamination into the environment. More information on the disposal methods can be found in the full license application.

The CISF project will consist of a total of eight phases with capacity for 500 metric tons of waste in each phase. Construction on Phase 1 is expected to start in 2018 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2020. Phase 1 construction will consist of: the first storage pad, site infrastructure, utilities, a rail line, and support buildings, including Administration, Radiation Safety, Security, and Offload/ Transfer buildings. Phase 1 is expected to provide capacity for approximately five years of operations. Phase 2 construction will begin so that it will come online just before Phase 1 reaches full capacity. The remaining phases are expected to follow the same 5-year pattern (see **Figure 1c, Conceptual Layout** and **Figure 1d, Potential Storage Facility Site Design Renderings**).

## Social and Economic Background of the Region

The site for the proposed CISF is located in Andrews County, Texas, which is in the northwestern portion of the state, bordered on the north by Gaines County; on the east by Martin County; on the south by Winkler, Ector and Midland Counties; and on the west by the State of New Mexico (Lea County). The CISF will be located in the High Plains region, which is part of the central Great Plains. The nearest neighbor to the WCS facility is approximately 3.8 miles west along State Highway 176 toward Eunice, New Mexico. The surrounding land is primarily used for stock grazing and supports an active oil and natural gas industry.

Outside of the WCS footprint, industries include gravel and caliche mining, oil and gas production, landfill operations, cattle and ranching. Louisiana Energy Services (LES) operates the National Enrichment Facility as URENCO, USA, about one mile southwest of the site, under license by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The majority of the land within five miles of the Site is used for grazing and ranching activities. Other businesses in proximity to the WCS property include Wallach Quarry, Sundance, Inc., and DD Landfarm located about one mile northwest and west of the proposed CISF. The remaining land in the vicinity of the proposed CISF is used for livestock grazing, oil and gas production or is unused land. The Lea County, New Mexico Landfill occupies approximately 40 acres and is located about 1.25 miles south southwest of the proposed CISF.

The ROI (defined as a 30-mile radius around the WCS facility) is entirely situated within the southern part of the Llano Estacado of Texas and New Mexico. The Llano Estacado (Staked Plains), the southern extension of the High Plains of North America, lies south of the Canadian River in northwest Texas and east New Mexico.

According to the WCS Socioeconomic Impact Assessment completed for the Byproduct Materials License (2008), social and economic development of the Llano Estacado did not begin until the 1870s. By the end of 1886, the area and adjacent lands had at least 30 large ranches recognized by name and cattle brand, grazing thousands of cattle on free grass and water on mostly unappropriated public lands. Some of the larger ranches were the Quarter Circle T, JA, Rocking Chair, LX, Turkey Track, T Anchor, Shoe Bar, Frying Pan, and Matador. Most of the largest ranches

250 125 0 250

1" = 250'-0"

A B C D E F

330'-0" 800'-0" 100'-0" 800'-0" 330'-0"

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

330'-0" 350'-0" 100'-0" 350'-0" 100'-0" 350'-0" 400'-0"

PHASE 4 PHASE 8

PHASE 3 PHASE 7

PHASE 2 PHASE 6

PHASE 5

PHASE 1

PROTECTED AREA FENCES

OWNER CONTROLLED AREA FENCE

PARKING AREA

SECURITY & ADMIN BLDG

CONTROL POINT
NORTHING: 6877970.99
EASTING: 562452.84

TRANSFER FACILITY, SEE C-03 FOR LOCATION

CONTROL POINT
NORTHING: 6877274.57
EASTING: 564003.64

RAIL SIDE TRACK

WASH DOWN PAD, SEE C-03 FOR LOCATION

CONTROL POINT
NORTHING: 6877754.97
EASTING: 561994.08

CONTROL POINT
NORTHING: 6876788.17
EASTING: 564146.96

CONTROL POINT
NORTHING: 6876126.65
EASTING: 564811.47

CONCRETE BATCH PLANT (FUTURE)

STATE LINE ROAD

EXISTING RAIL

LSA PAD

**Figure 1c**
**Conceptual Site Plan**

DRAWING RECORD

| REV. | DESCRIPTION | DATE | DRAWN | CHECK |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | ISSUED FOR REVIEW | | GWH | DHO |

AMERICAS NUCLEAR SOLUTION
9998 W. STATE HWY. 176, ANDREWS, TEXAS 79714
Ph. (432) 525-8500 WWW.WCSTEXAS.COM

WCS CISF

WASTE CONTROL SPECIALISTS, ANDREWS TEXAS

CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

141101

| | |
|---|---|
| DESIGNED BY: | DJVIVEN |
| DRAWN BY: | GHAMBLIN |
| CHECKED BY: | DJVIVEN |
| PROJ. MANAGER: | |
| DOCUMENT CONTROL No.: | |
| CONTROL COPY NO.: | |
| DWG. SCALE: | 1" = 250'-0" |

SHEET NUMBER: C-02

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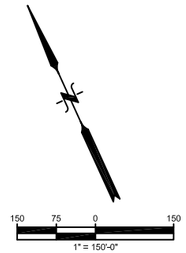


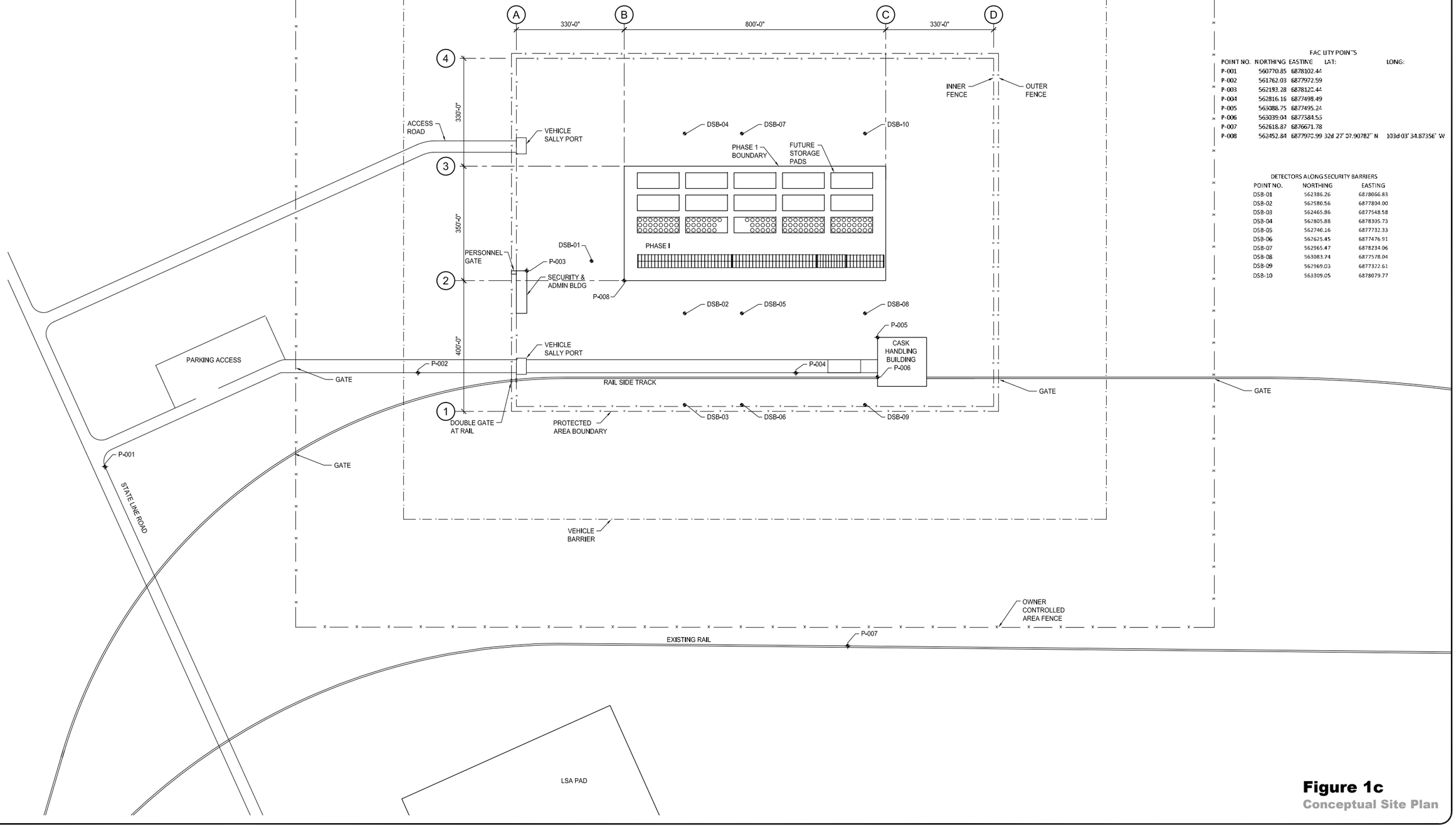


FACILITY POINTS

| POINT NO. | NORTHING | EASTING | LAT: | LONG: |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| P-001 | 560770.85 | 6878102.44 | | |
| P-002 | 561762.03 | 6877972.59 | | |
| P-003 | 562193.28 | 6878122.44 | | |
| P-004 | 562816.16 | 6877498.49 | | |
| P-005 | 563088.75 | 6877495.24 | | |
| P-006 | 563039.04 | 6877384.55 | | |
| P-007 | 562618.87 | 6876671.78 | | |
| P-008 | 562452.84 | 6877972.99 | 32d 27' 27.90782" N | 103d 03' 34.87356" W |

DETECTORS ALONG SECURITY BARRIERS

| POINT NO. | NORTHING | EASTING |
|---|---|---|
| DSB-01 | 562386.26 | 6878066.83 |
| DSB-02 | 562580.56 | 6877804.00 |
| DSB-03 | 562465.86 | 6877548.58 |
| DSB-04 | 562805.88 | 6878305.73 |
| DSB-05 | 562740.16 | 6877732.33 |
| DSB-06 | 562625.45 | 6877476.91 |
| DSB-07 | 562965.47 | 6878234.06 |
| DSB-08 | 563083.74 | 6877578.04 |
| DSB-09 | 562969.03 | 6877322.61 |
| DSB-10 | 563309.05 | 6878079.77 |

**Figure 1c**
**Conceptual Site Plan**

DRAWING RECORD

| REV. | DESCRIPTION | DATE | DRAWN | CHECK |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | ISSUED FOR REVIEW | | GWH | DHO |

AMERICAS NUCLEAR SOLUTION
9998 W. STATE HWY. 176, ANDREWS, TEXAS 79714
Ph.(432) 525-8500 WWW.WCSTEXAS.COM

WCS CISF
WASTE CONTROL SPECIALISTS, ANDREWS TEXAS
CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

141101

| | |
|---|---|
| DESIGNED BY: | D.OWEN |
| DRAWN BY: | C.HAMBLIN |
| CHECKED BY: | D.OWEN |
| PROJ. ENG.: | |
| PROJ. MGR.: | |
| DOCUMENT CONTROL No.: | |
| CONTROL COPY No.: | |
| DWG. SCALE: | 1" = 150'-0" |

SHEET NUMBER:
C-03

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**Figure 1c**
Conceptual Site Plan

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SHEET NUMBER: C-05 | DESIGNED BY: D.OWEN<br>DRAWN BY: G.HAMBLIN<br>CHECKED BY: D.OWEN<br>PROJ. ENG. MGR.<br>ENG DIRECTOR: | DATE |
| | DOCUMENT CONTROL No.: | |
| | CONTROL COPY No.: | |
| | DWG. SCALE: 1" = 250'-0" | |

# WCS CISF

WASTE CONTROL SPECIALISTS, ANDREWS TEXAS

CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

AMERICA'S NUCLEAR SOLUTION
9998 W. STATE HWY. 176, ANDREWS, TEXAS 79714
Ph. (432) 525-8500 WWW.WCSTEXAS.COM

DRAWING RECORD

| REV. | DESCRIPTION | DATE | DRAWN | CHECK |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | ISSUED FOR REVIEW | | GWH | DHO |
| | | | | |
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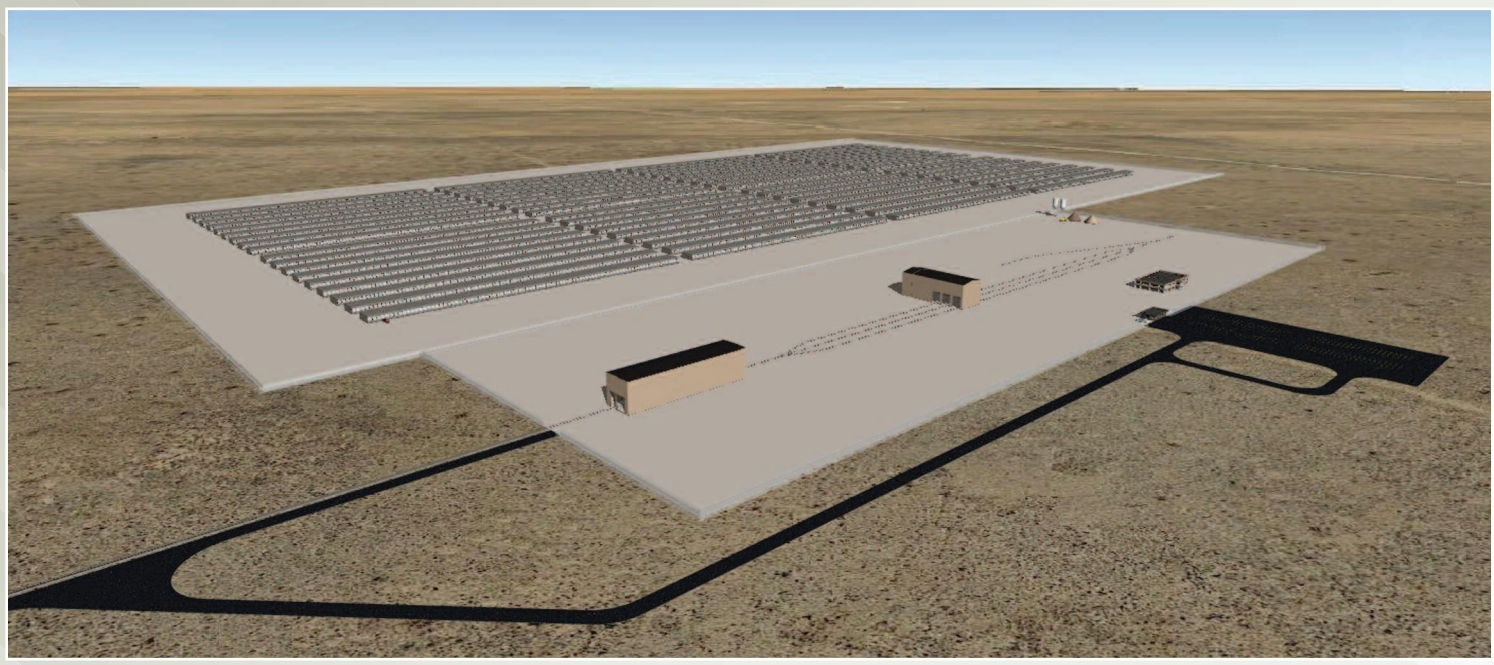
# POTENTUAL ISFSI SITE RENDERINGS



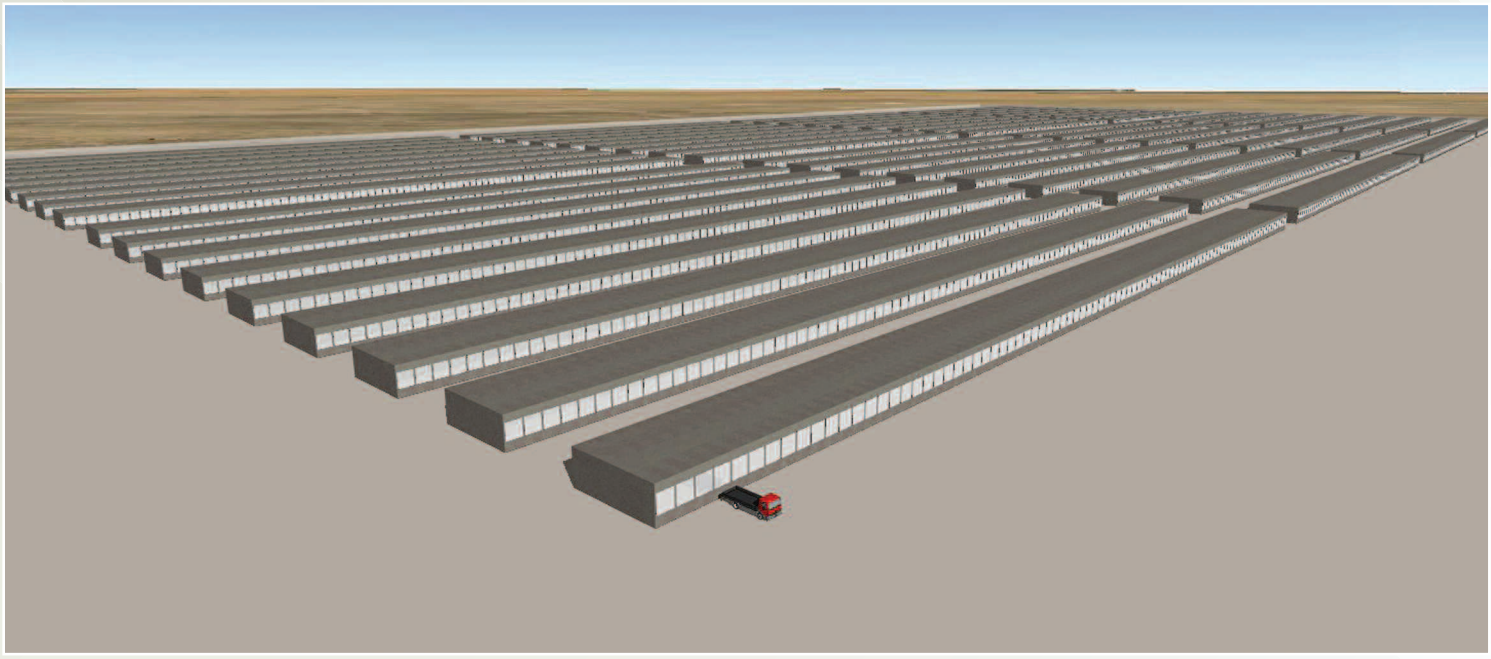


**Figure 1d**

**Potential Storage Facility Site Design Renderings**

were broken up by 1920, and much of the land came under the control of land developers and speculators who promoted active and successful campaigns to bring new settlers to West Texas. Innovative farmers learned techniques to make the rich, dry land productive; they also drilled into the Ogallala Aquifer. Development of animal, windmill, and engine-powered pumps led to massive irrigation programs. Cotton, corn, wheat, sorghum, and a great variety of melons and vegetables are now grown on the Llano Estacado.

Natural gas was discovered in Potter County in 1917 and oil in Carson County in 1921. These initial discoveries led to the development of the vast West Texas oilfields, which by 1981 had yielded approximately 46.7 billion barrels of crude oil. The discovery and development of the oil and gas fields brought large-scale industry to the Llano area in the 1930s. Thus within a relatively short period the Llano witnessed the most rapid development of any section of the state, progressing from an economy based on unfenced public grazing land to a modern industrial economy within half a century (WCS 2008).

The Permian Basin is a large oil and natural gas producing area largely contained in west Texas. It is so named because it has one of the world's thickest deposits of rocks from the Permian geologic period. Ranching, both sheep and cattle, was the mainstay of the economy in this region of the Permian Basin from the mid-1880's through 1927. During this forty-year period, the basic entities of the community were formed. Churches were founded almost immediately with congregations being served by the circuit preachers and laymen. Services were held at the courthouse, in homes or under the trees. Schools, social organizations, commercial businesses and political clubs soon followed (WCS 2008).

Subsurface petroleum product exploration and production have been conducted in the area of the Central Basin Platform for over 75 years. The local area has been heavily explored for oil and gas reserves over the last 35 years. Most of the oil wells in the vicinity of the CISF site have been abandoned. The absence of oil wells on the site supports the absence of favorable conditions for oil production. Oil and gas wells are also located to the west in New Mexico and to the north in Texas, XTO is currently drilling a well two miles north of the current permitted area.

Residents of the ROI's communities take pride that their society and economy have been able to withstand the "boom" and "bust" cycles throughout its history, including the period in the 2000s during which the "peak oil" debate was occurring. Periodic fluctuations in the price of oil and resulting variability in the ROI's output, employment and income, however, have given rise to the belief that the ROI needs to continue diversifying its economic base beyond oil and natural gas production and processing. As demonstrated through their cooperative relationship, both WCS and the local community are aligned in their goal to address the national problem of locating a safe interim disposal site for spent fuel until a permanent location is identified. Lea and Eddy Counties in New Mexico have formed an alliance to pursue an interim storage site approximately 40 miles west of the site outside the ROL.

## Current Social and Economic Conditions, Including Baseline Socioeconomic Data for the Region of Interest

This section describes the current social and economic characteristics of the ROI surrounding the WCS complex. Information is provided on population, including minority and low-income areas, economic trends, housing, and community services in the areas of education, health, public safety, and transportation.

The primary labor markets for the operation of the processing and storage facility will be Andrews County, Texas, and Lea County, New Mexico. The Andrews County seat is located in the City of Andrews, about 30 miles east- southeast of the facility. There are no population centers in Andrews County closer to the processing and storage facility. The surrounding area is very rural and semi-arid, with commerce in livestock production, agriculture (cotton, sorghum), and substantial oil and gas production, which represents most of the county's wealth and income. Andrews County ranked sixth in oil producing counties in Texas in April 2014 (Railroad Commission of Texas 2015 http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/oil-gas/research-and-statistics/). Andrews County covers 1,501 square miles and in 2010 its population density was 9.9 persons per square mile compared to Texas, which had 96.3 persons per square mile.

The City of Andrews has been in a period of large economic activity triggered by major industry investments, which have brought in hundreds of high-paying jobs and additional construction activity. Recent examples of new infrastructure and investments include (among others): Performance Center; two new elementary schools; City of Andrews Business and Technology Center; a Senior Citizens Activity Center, a new 90-bed Residential Care Facility; two new business parks (energy industry driven), County Special Events Center, Andrews downtown streetscape improvements and a new campus for the Permian Regional Medical Center. One library, two banks, three credit unions, and a biweekly newspaper serve the city of Andrews. Fraternal and civil organizations include the Lions Club, Rotary Club, United Way of Andrews, Knights of Columbus, and Girl Scouts of America. Local facilities serving the community of Andrews include 39 churches, a municipal swimming pool, golf course, tennis courts, youth club/center/parks, and athletic fields.

The current socioeconomic conditions for Lea County are similar in most respects to Andrews County. Lea County is relatively large, covering 4,391 square miles in southeastern New Mexico. The county population density is 14.7 persons per square mile compared to 17 persons per square mile in New Mexico. The Lea County community was initially agriculturally based, but the discovery of oil and gas in the mid-1920s has had a significant impact on the region. Today the county's agricultural heritage continues to have underlying influences on the county's development with farming and ranching. The oil and gas industry still has a strong effect on the local economy, in addition to a growing manufacturing sector. Five libraries, nine financial institutions, and two daily newspapers serve Lea County. Cities in Lea County that are within the ROI include Hobbs, Eunice and Jal.

In Lea County, there are five public school districts and four private schools. The closest school district is in Eunice, located six miles to the west, with the other districts located in Hobbs, Jal, Lovington, and Tatum. The main campus of the University of the Southwest (USW) and New Mexico Junior College (NMJC) are located in and near Hobbs, New Mexico. NMJC's Training and Outreach Facility provides workforce training, online courses, and a center for legal studies.

There are two hospitals in Lea County, New Mexico. The Lea Regional Medical Center is located in Hobbs, New Mexico, about 20 miles north of the WCS facility. In Lovington, New Mexico, 39 miles north-northwest of the facility, Covenant Medical Systems manages Nor-Lea Hospital, a 25-bed Medicare-certified Critical Access Hospital serving southeastern New Mexico.

# 1.0 CURRENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, INCLUDING BASELINE SOCIOECONOMIC DATA FOR THE REGION OF INTEREST

## 1.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE IN THE REGION OF INTEREST (ROI)

The existing WCS processing, storage, and disposal facility is in Andrews County, Texas, near the border of Lea County, New Mexico. Andrews, Texas, and Eunice, New Mexico, are the closest communities to the site at distances of approximately 32 miles southeast and six miles west, respectively. Population centers (more than 25,000 persons) and communities (less than 25,000 persons) are shown below with distance from the site and 2010 census population (see **Figure 1a**):

- Andrews, Andrews County, Texas: 32 miles southeast: 11,088 persons
- Eunice, Lea County, New Mexico: 6 miles west: 2,922 persons
- Hobbs, Lea County, New Mexico: 20 miles north; 34,122 persons
- Jal, Lea County, New Mexico: 23 miles south; 2,047 persons
- Lovington, Lea County, New Mexico: 39 miles north-northwest: 11,009 persons
- Seminole, Gaines County, Texas: 32 miles east-northeast: 6,430 persons
- Denver City, Gaines County, Texas: 40 miles north-northeast: 4,479 persons.

**Population and Population Projections in the Region of Interest**

Aside from these communities, the population density around the site is low. A majority of the ROI is in Andrews and Gaines Counties, Texas, with a large portion in Lea County, New Mexico. Small portions of the ROI fall in Winkler County and Ector County, Texas, so they are also included. **Table 1-1** shows the historical population of Texas and New Mexico Counties in the ROI from 1970 to 2010. All counties grew between 1970 and 2010 with the exception of Winkler County, which experienced population decline (26 percent) over the 40-year period. Andrews County grew by 43 percent between 1970 and 2010, while Gaines County grew 51 percent and Ector County (though the county's largest population center, Odessa, does not fall in the ROI) grew by 49 percent. The population in Lea County, New Mexico, grew by 22 percent.

**Table 1-1: Historical Population of Counties in the Region of Interest, 1970–2010**

| Year | Andrews Co., TX | Gaines Co., TX | Winkler Co., TX | Ector Co., TX | Lea Co., NM* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1970 | 10,372 | 11,593 | 9,640 | 91,805 | 49,554 |
| 1980 | 13,323 | 13,150 | 9,944 | 115,374 | 55,993 |
| 1990 | 14,338 | 14,123 | 8,626 | 118,934 | 55,765 |
| 2000 | 13,004 | 14,467 | 7,173 | 121,125 | 55,511 |
| 2010 | 14,786 | 17,526 | 7,110 | 137,130 | 60,702 |
| Percent change 1970 to 2010 | 43% | 51% | -26% | 49% | 22% |

Source: Texas Almanac, Population of Texas Counties 1850–2010.

*Lea County, New Mexico, data from U.S. Census (from WCS Socioeconomic Impact Assessment, 2008).

Population projections are available from the Texas Water Development Board for Texas counties from 2020 to 2070. In this 50-year timeframe, all Texas counties in the ROI are expected to grow by varying degrees. Andrews is projected to grow by 107.3 percent, while Gaines is expected to grow by 120 percent. Winkler is expected to experience the least population growth (39.2 percent) and Ector would grow by 68.6 percent. Together, the Texas counties in the ROI are expected to grow by 56.3 percent, slightly less as a region than the state of Texas, which is projected to grow by 73.0 percent. These data are shown in **Table 1-2**.

**Table 1-2: Texas Water Board Population Projections for Texas Counties in the Region of Interest**

| Year | Andrews | Gaines | Winkler | Ector | Texas Counties in the Region of Interest | Texas |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2020 | 19,089 | 21,316 | 8,033 | 156,957 | 247,322 | 29,510,184 |
| 2030 | 22,847 | 25,746 | 8,817 | 177,157 | 274,737 | 33,628,653 |
| 2040 | 26,246 | 30,997 | 9,459 | 198,446 | 302,648 | 37,736,338 |
| 2050 | 30,111 | 36,654 | 10,147 | 220,268 | 330,815 | 41,928,264 |
| 2060 | 34,526 | 41,666 | 10,702 | 242,371 | 358,485 | 46,354,818 |
| 2070 | 39,574 | 46,886 | 11,181 | 264,646 | 386,459 | 51,040,173 |
| Percent change 2020 - 2070 | 107.3% | 120.0% | 39.2% | 68.6% | 56.3% | 73.0% |

Source: Texas Water Development Board, 2016 Regional Water Plan Projections for 2020–2070.

The Texas Water Development Board projections utilize estimates from the Texas State Data Center (TSDC). The TSDC projections utilize the "0.5" growth rate scenario, one of several scenarios developed by the TSDC to project population growth in Texas. This scenario assumes rates of net migration one-half of those of the 1990s; the TSDC believes that many counties in the state are unlikely to continue to experience the overall levels of relatively extensive growth of the 1990s. The TSDC considers the 0.5 scenario to be the most appropriate scenario for most counties for use in long-term planning.

Population projections by race for Andrews County show that between 2010 and 2050, the total population is expected to grow by 60.1 percent with the Anglo population growing by four percent, the Black population remaining the same, the Hispanic population growing 116.1 percent, and Other races growing by 82.8 percent (**Table 1-3**).

As shown in **Table 1-4**, population projections by race for Gaines County show that between 2010 and 2050, the total population is expected to grow by 89.1 percent, with the Anglo population growing by 82.4 percent, the Black population growing by 14.6 percent, the Hispanic population growing 104.3 percent, and Other races growing by 60.7 percent.

| Table 1-3: Projected Populations 2010–2050 by Race/Ethnicity for Andrews County | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Total | Anglo | Black | Hispanic | Other |
| 2010 | 14,786 | 7,083 | 199 | 7,195 | 309 |
| 2015 | 15,875 | 7,197 | 202 | 8,137 | 339 |
| 2020 | 16,987 | 7,288 | 208 | 9,118 | 373 |
| 2025 | 18,123 | 7,357 | 217 | 10,136 | 413 |
| 2030 | 19,224 | 7,398 | 220 | 11,155 | 451 |
| 2035 | 20,369 | 7,455 | 222 | 12,216 | 476 |
| 2040 | 21,482 | 7,464 | 214 | 13,305 | 499 |
| 2045 | 22,585 | 7,425 | 207 | 14,413 | 540 |
| 2050 | 23,676 | 7,364 | 199 | 15,548 | 565 |
| Percent Change 2010–2050 | 60.1% | 4% | 0% | 116.1% | 82.8% |

Source: Texas Data Center 2014 projections at 1/2 Migration Rate (2000–2010) for all ages.

| Table 1-4: Projected Populations 2010–2050 by Race/Ethnicity for Gaines County | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Total | Anglo | Black | Hispanic | Other |
| 2010 | 17,526 | 10,628 | 261 | 6,413 | 224 |
| 2015 | 19,120 | 11,461 | 274 | 7,143 | 242 |
| 2020 | 20,805 | 12,340 | 287 | 7,911 | 267 |
| 2025 | 22,611 | 13,308 | 290 | 8,718 | 295 |
| 2030 | 24,602 | 14,459 | 298 | 9,526 | 319 |
| 2035 | 26,754 | 15,759 | 312 | 10,336 | 347 |
| 2040 | 28,832 | 16,959 | 316 | 11,203 | 354 |
| 2045 | 30,943 | 18,150 | 313 | 12,124 | 356 |
| 2050 | 33,144 | 19,384 | 299 | 13,101 | 360 |
| Percent Change 2010–2050 | 89.1% | 82.4% | 14.6% | 104.3% | 60.7% |

Source: Texas Data Center 2014 projections at 1/2 Migration Rate (2000–2010) for all ages.

Population projections by race for Winkler County (**Table 1-5**) show that between 2010 and 2050, the total population is expected to grow by 43.6 percent, with the Anglo population declining by 0.6 percent, the Black population growing by 4.7 percent, the Hispanic population growing 79.8 percent, and Other races growing by 45.1 percent.

| Table 1-5: Projected Populations 2010–2050 by Race/Ethnicity for Winkler County | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Total | Anglo | Black | Hispanic | Other |
| 2010 | 7,110 | 3,024 | 129 | 3,824 | 133 |
| 2015 | 7,567 | 3,093 | 129 | 4,208 | 137 |
| 2020 | 8,039 | 3,140 | 134 | 4,618 | 147 |
| 2025 | 8,486 | 3,151 | 141 | 5,036 | 158 |
| 2030 | 8,857 | 3,130 | 146 | 5,414 | 167 |
| 2035 | 9,213 | 3,104 | 149 | 5,782 | 178 |
| 2040 | 9,528 | 3,061 | 145 | 6,136 | 186 |
| 2045 | 9,858 | 3,038 | 141 | 6,489 | 190 |
| 2050 | 10,209 | 3,005 | 135 | 6,876 | 193 |
| Percent Change 2010–2050 | 43.6% | -0.6% | 4.7% | 79.8% | 45.1% |

Source: Texas Data Center 2014 projections at 1/2 Migration Rate (2000–2010) for all ages.

For Ector County, population projections by race show that between 2010 and 2050, the total population is expected to grow by 60.4 percent, with the Anglo population declining by 21.9 percent, the Black population growing by 33.6 percent, the Hispanic population growing 125.5 percent, and Other races growing by 87.2 percent (**Table 1-6**).

| Table 1-6: Projected Populations 2010–2050 by Race/Ethnicity for Ector County | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Total | Anglo | Black | Hispanic | Other |
| 2010 | 137,130 | 56,306 | 5,596 | 72,331 | 2,897 |
| 2015 | 147,179 | 56,021 | 5,918 | 82,030 | 3,210 |
| 2020 | 157,045 | 55,117 | 6,155 | 92,259 | 3,514 |
| 2025 | 167,067 | 53,771 | 6,378 | 103,066 | 3,852 |
| 2030 | 177,335 | 52,089 | 6,636 | 114,416 | 4,194 |
| 2035 | 187,862 | 50,317 | 6,896 | 126,130 | 4,519 |
| 2040 | 198,503 | 48,343 | 7,145 | 138,175 | 4,840 |
| 2045 | 209,095 | 46,189 | 7,304 | 150,468 | 5,134 |
| 2050 | 220,012 | 43,979 | 7,475 | 163,135 | 5,423 |
| Percent Change 2010–2050 | 60.4% | -21.9% | 33.6% | 125.5% | 87.2% |

Source: Texas Data Center 2014 projections at 1/2 Migration Rate (2000–2010) for all ages.

Data for the State of Texas (**Table 1-7**) show that there are similarities for projections by race within the ROI, especially with regard to the substantial anticipated growth of the Hispanic population. Statewide, the total population is expected to grow by 61.1 percent between 2010 and 2050, with the Anglo population declining by 1.2 percent; the Black population expected to grow by 40.8 percent; the Hispanic population projected to grow by 127.4 percent and the Other population to increase by 161 percent.

| Table 1-7: Projected Populations 2010–2050 by Race/Ethnicity for Texas | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Total | Anglo | Black | Hispanic | Other |
| 2010 | 25,145,561 | 11,397,345 | 2,886,825 | 9,460,921 | 1,400,470 |
| 2015 | 26,947,116 | 11,585,146 | 3,083,970 | 10,659,352 | 1,618,648 |
| 2020 | 28,813,282 | 11,723,184 | 3,274,738 | 11,963,951 | 1,851,409 |
| 2025 | 30,734,321 | 11,796,414 | 3,454,116 | 13,384,050 | 2,099,741 |
| 2030 | 32,680,217 | 11,792,588 | 3,616,745 | 14,900,906 | 2,369,978 |
| 2035 | 34,616,890 | 11,717,771 | 3,757,614 | 16,475,644 | 2,665,861 |
| 2040 | 36,550,595 | 11,593,202 | 3,876,830 | 18,095,574 | 2,984,989 |
| 2045 | 38,499,538 | 11,434,587 | 3,977,772 | 19,769,879 | 3,317,300 |
| 2050 | 40,502,749 | 11,265,371 | 4,065,757 | 21,516,362 | 3,655,259 |
| Percent Change 2010–2050 | 61.1% | -1.2% | 40.8% | 127.4% | 161% |

Source: Texas Data Center 2014 projections at 1/2 Migration Rate (2000–2010) for all ages.

Data were not available for population projections by race in Lea County or New Mexico. Overall, the population in Lea County is projected to grow by 71 percent between 2010 and 2040 (**Table 1-8**). The population in New Mexico is projected to grow by 36.9 percent between 2010 and 2040 (**Table 1-9**).

| Table 1-8: Projected Lea County Populations: 2010–2040 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2025 | 2030 | 2035 | 2040 | Percent Change 2010–2040 |
| Lea County | 64,727 | 71,465 | 78,407 | 85,773 | 93,712 | 102,090 | 110,661 | 71% |

Source: New Mexico County Population Projections July 1, 2010, to July 1, 2040, Geospatial and Population Studies Group, University of New Mexico. Released November 2012.

| Table 1-9: Projected New Mexico State Populations: 2010–2040 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2025 | 2030 | 2035 | 2040 | Percent Change 2010–2040 |
| New Mexico | 2,065,826 | 2,208,450 | 2,351,724 | 2,487,227 | 2,613,332 | 2,727,118 | 2,827,692 | 36.9% |

Source: New Mexico County Population Projections July 1, 2010, to July 1, 2040, Geospatial and Population Studies Group, University of New Mexico. Released November 2012.

**Age Distribution**

The various counties within the ROI vary substantially in terms of total population, with Ector County (only a small portion of which falls within the ROI) having approximately 137,130 persons compared to Winkler County, which has only 7,110 persons. Lea County, New Mexico, has 64,727 persons and Andrews County has 14,786 persons. Nonetheless, there are numerous similarities regarding the breakdown of males and females within various age groups, and the largest population sectors in terms of age. The data for the ROI are similar to the data for Texas and New Mexico in terms of percentages. The percentage of individuals aged 20 to 44 years within the ROI (33.7 percent) is very similar to that of the states of Texas (35.3 percent) and New Mexico (32 percent). For all age groups except over 65 years, males and females each make up approximately half the population (with males and females typically making up between 49 and 51 percent of the population depending on the geographic area, with minor exceptions). For populations over 65, the number of females typically exceeds the number of males, with female population percentages ranging from 54 to 57 percent and males ranging from 43 to 46 percent of the population. Within the ROI, females over 65 constitute 56 percent of the population and males constituting 44 percent of the population. This distribution is the same as the state of Texas as a whole; in New Mexico, 55 percent of persons over 65 were female and 45 percent were male (**Table 1-10**).

### 1.1.1 Education Levels

The most common level of educational attainment for the cities and counties in the ROI is a high school diploma (26.7 to 30.3 percent of the population), followed by persons who had some college and no degree (ranging from 14.3 to 25.5 percent of the population). The least common level of educational attainment for the ROI is graduate or professional degrees, which have been earned by 2.4 to 4.9 percent of the population (**Table 1-11**).

### 1.1.2 Health Characteristics by Race/Ethnicity, Income, Including Births, Deaths, Average Life Span, Infant Mortality Rate, Child Mortality Rate, Morbidity, and Mortality by Type of Disease

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, the average life span for Texas residents is 78.3 years. The number of births in Texas for 2012 was 382,438 with Hispanics or Latinos having the most births (182,855 or 47.8 percent of all births) (see **Table 1-12**). The number of births for the White population was 132,288 or 34.6 percent followed by the Black or African American population with 43,100 births and other races with 24,195 births.

Based on data shown in **Table 1-12**, the number of deaths in Texas in 2012 was 173,935 of which 115,089 or 66.2 percent were within the White population. Hispanic or Latino deaths were 34,756 or 20.0 percent, followed by Black or African American deaths (20,560) and other races (3,530 deaths).

| Table 1-10: Age in the Region of Interest (2010) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age** | **Lea County, NM** | ***% M or F w/in age group*** | **Andrews County, TX** | ***% M or F w/in age group*** | **Ector County, TX** | ***% M or F w/in age group*** | **Gaines County, TX** | ***% M or F w/in age group*** | **Winkler County, TX** | ***% M or F w/in age group*** | **Region of Interest** | ***% M or F w/in age group*** | **New Mexico** | ***% M or F w/in age group*** | **Texas** | ***% M or F w/in age group*** |
| Total: | 64,727 | | 14,786 | | 137,130 | | 17,526 | | 7,110 | | 241,279 | | 2,059,179 | | 25,145,561 | |
| Under 5 | 5,909 | | 1,226 | | 12,075 | | 1,819 | | 633 | | 21,662 | | 144,981 | | 1,928,473 | |
| Male | 2,985 | *51%* | 658 | *54%* | 6,164 | *51%* | 913 | *50%* | 322 | *51%* | 11,042 | *51%* | 74,078 | *51%* | 984,149 | *51%* |
| Female | 2,924 | *49%* | 568 | *46%* | 5,911 | *49%* | 906 | *50%* | 311 | *49%* | 10,620 | *49%* | 70,903 | *49%* | 944,324 | *49%* |
| *<5 % of Total* | *9.1%* | | *8.3%* | | *8.8%* | | *10.4%* | | *8.9%* | | *9.0%* | | *7.0%* | | *7.7%* | |
| 5 to 19 | 15,068 | | 3,500 | | 32,191 | | 4,861 | | 1,659 | | 57,279 | | 434,860 | | 5,693,241 | |
| Male | 7,695 | *51%* | 1,812 | *52%* | 16,364 | *51%* | 2,479 | *51%* | 867 | *52%* | 29,217 | *51%* | 221,549 | *51%* | 2,915,366 | *51%* |
| Female | 7,373 | *49%* | 1,688 | *48%* | 15,827 | *49%* | 2,382 | *49%* | 792 | *48%* | 28,062 | *49%* | 213,311 | *49%* | 2,777,875 | *49%* |
| *5-19 % of Total* | *23.3%* | | *23.7%* | | *23.5%* | | *27.7%* | | *23.3%* | | *23.7%* | | *21.1%* | | *22.6%* | |
| 20 to 44 | 21,866 | | 4,742 | | 47,023 | | 5,625 | | 2,121 | | 81,377 | | 658,138 | | 8,888,934 | |
| Male | 11,530 | *53%* | 2,362 | *50%* | 23,481 | *50%* | 2,816 | *50%* | 1,031 | *49%* | 41,220 | *51%* | 332,620 | *51%* | 4,477,210 | *50%* |
| Female | 10,336 | *47%* | 2,380 | *50%* | 23,542 | *50%* | 2,809 | *50%* | 1,090 | *51%* | 40,157 | *49%* | 325,518 | *49%* | 4,411,724 | *50%* |
| *20-44 % of Total* | *33.8%* | | *32.1%* | | *34.3%* | | *32.1%* | | *29.8%* | | *33.7%* | | *32.0%* | | *35.3%* | |
| 45 to 59 | 12,078 | | 2,998 | | 25,908 | | 3,025 | | 1,494 | | 45,503 | | 428,808 | | 4,858,260 | |
| Male | 6,303 | *52%* | 1,492 | *50%* | 12,759 | *49%* | 1,545 | *51%* | 784 | *52%* | 22,883 | *50%* | 208,369 | *49%* | 2,394,071 | *49%* |
| Female | 5,775 | *48%* | 1,506 | *50%* | 13,149 | *51%* | 1,480 | *49%* | 710 | *48%* | 22,620 | *50%* | 220,439 | *51%* | 2,464,189 | *51%* |
| *45-59 % of Total* | *18.7%* | | *20.3%* | | *18.9%* | | *17.3%* | | *21.0%* | | *18.9%* | | *20.8%* | | *19.3%* | |
| 60 to 64 | 2,815 | | 657 | | 5,979 | | 619 | | 363 | | 10,433 | | 120,137 | | 1,174,767 | |
| Male | 1,385 | *49%* | 320 | *49%* | 2,944 | *49%* | 326 | *53%* | 179 | *49%* | 5,154 | *49%* | 58,201 | *48%* | 565,820 | *48%* |
| Female | 1,430 | *51%* | 337 | *51%* | 3,035 | *51%* | 293 | *47%* | 184 | *51%* | 5,279 | *51%* | 61,936 | *52%* | 608,947 | *52%* |
| *60-64 % of Total* | *4.3%* | | *4.4%* | | *4.4%* | | *3.5%* | | *5.1%* | | *4.3%* | | *5.8%* | | *4.7%* | |
| 65 and over | 6,991 | | 1,663 | | 13,954 | | 1,577 | | 840 | | 25,025 | | 272,255 | | 2,601,886 | |
| Male | 3,147 | *45%* | 724 | *44%* | 5,974 | *43%* | 719 | *46%* | 367 | *44%* | 10,931 | *44%* | 122,604 | *45%* | 1,135,664 | *44%* |
| Female | 3,844 | *55%* | 939 | *56%* | 7,980 | *57%* | 858 | *54%* | 473 | *56%* | 14,094 | *56%* | 149,651 | *55%* | 1,466,222 | *56%* |
| *65> % of Total* | *10.8%* | | *11.2%* | | *10.2%* | | *9.0%* | | *11.8%* | | *10.4%* | | *13.2%* | | *10.3%* | |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Table P12.

| Table 1-11: Educational Attainment in the Region of Interest (2009–2013) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Educational Attainment for Population 25 Years and Older** | **Lea County, NM** | **Andrews County, TX** | **Gaines County, TX** | **Winkler County, TX** | **Ector County, TX** | **Andrews City, TX** | **Seminole City, TX** | **New Mexico** | **Texas** |
| Less than 9th grade | 13.2% | 15.6% | 27.2% | 18.2% | 13.2% | 15.9% | 15.4% | 7.3% | 9.4% |
| 9th to 12th grade, no diploma | 15.5% | 10.8% | 13.4% | 11.6% | 13.9% | 10.1% | 17.8% | 9.0% | 9.4% |
| High school graduate (includes equivalency) | 28.9% | 30.3% | 26.7% | 29.8% | 28.6% | 28.9% | 26.9% | 26.4% | 25.3% |
| Some college, no degree | 21.6% | 24.8% | 14.3% | 25.5% | 25.3% | 26.4% | 17.7% | 23.9% | 22.7% |
| Associate's degree | 7.4% | 4.4% | 6.4% | 5.2% | 5.5% | 5.4% | 7.9% | 7.5% | 6.5% |
| Bachelor's degree | 8.4% | 10.4% | 9.3% | 7.2% | 9.7% | 9.4% | 10.4% | 14.7% | 17.7% |
| Graduate or professional degree | 4.9% | 3.8% | 2.6% | 2.4% | 3.8% | 3.8% | 3.8% | 11.1% | 8.9% |
| **Population 25 years and over** | 39,728 | 9,392 | 9,992 | 4,432 | 84,299 | 7,092 | 3,876 | 1,347,229 | 16,080,307 |

Source: American Community Survey (ACS) 2009–2013 Table S1501.

| Table 1-12: Health Characteristics and Vital Statistics in the Region of Interest | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Race/Age** | **Lea County, NM** | **Andrews County, TX** | **Andrews, TX** | **Gaines County, TX** | **Seminole, TX** | **Winkler County, TX** | **Ector County, TX** | **New Mexico** | **Texas** |
| **Average Life Span** | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 78.3 |
| White | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 78.3 |
| Black or African American | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 74.7 |
| Hispanic or Latino | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 79.5 |
| **Birth by Race** | | | | | | | | | |
| White | - | 106 | 76 | 189 | 68 | 42 | 850 | 8.8 | 132,288 |
| Black or African American | - | 4 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 94 | 10.6 | 43,100 |
| Hispanic or Latino | - | 204 | 162 | 150 | 57 | 87 | 1,760 | 14.5 | 182,855 |
| Other Races | - | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 51 | | 24,195 |
| **All Births (2012)** | **1,200** | **317** | **243** | **348** | **128** | **132** | **2,755** | **26,242** | **382,438** |
| **Death by Race** | | | | | | | | | |
| White | - | 102 | 76 | 90 | 46 | 59 | 759 | - | 115,089 |
| Black or African American | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 56 | - | 20,560 |
| Hispanic or Latino | - | 35 | 31 | 29 | 20 | 23 | 332 | - | 34,756 |
| Other Races | - | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | - | 3,530 |
| **All Deaths (2012)** | **435** | **139** | **109** | **121** | **67** | **82** | **1,152** | **16,780** | **173,935** |
| **Death by Age** | | | | | | | | | |
| Age - Under 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | 17 | - | 2,224 |
| Age - 1 to 4 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 0 | 2 | - | 449 |
| Age - 5 to 14 | - | 0 | - | 4 | - | 0 | 8 | - | 505 |
| Age - 15 and Over | - | 137 | - | 115 | - | 81 | 1,125 | - | 170,055 |

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Vital Statistics Annual Report. Tables 9a, 9b, 9T, 15, 15a, 15b, and 25.

Texas Health Data: Birth Statistics for the State of Texas (By Race): 2012. Birth Statistics for the State of Texas (By County and Race): 2012. Death Statistics for the State of Texas (By County and Race): 2012. Death Statistics for the State of Texas (Ector County by Age): 2012. Death Statistics for the State of Texas (By County and Age): 2012. Death Statistics for the State of Texas (by Age): 2012. Death Statistics for the State of Texas (by Race): 2012. Death Statistics for the State of Texas (by Race and County): 2012.

* Birth and death data not available for Eunice, New Mexico; Hobbs, New Mexico; and Jal, New Mexico. Average life span only available for the State of Texas; Births and deaths by race and age, as well as cause of death only available for Texas.

Deaths in Texas were primarily concentrated within the age group of 15 and over. Only one death under the age of one occurred in Andrews, Gaines and Winkler Counties, though Ector County had 17 deaths under the age of one in 2012. The cause of death for those under the age of one, in all instances within Andrews, Winkler, and Gaines counties, being certain conditions originating in the perinatal period. Seven deaths were reported in Ector County under the age of one caused by certain conditions originating in the perinatal period, seven were congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities, and three other diseases for a total of 17 (TSDHS 2012).

For 2013, New Mexico residents reported 143 infant deaths and the rate of infant mortality was 5.4 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. This was a decrease from 2012 (6.9 deaths per 1,000 live births), and the 2013 infant mortality rate was lower than the United States rate. From a historical perspective, rates have decreased considerably since the 1930s in New Mexico, when they were above 145 deaths per 1,000 live births (NMDH 2013). The rate of infant death in Lea County, New Mexico, was 7.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2012 (Public Records 2015), which was slightly higher than the state rate for that same year.

The infant mortality rate in Texas was 5.8 per 1,000 live births in 2012. The rate for Andrews County in 2012 was 3.5, with the city of Andrews, Texas, at 4.1 percent. The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 6.2 for Ector County, 2.9 for Gaines County, 7.8 for the city of Seminole, Texas, and 7.6 for Winkler County (TDSHS 2012, Table T28). Ector County, Seminole, Texas, and Winkler County were above the state rate for 2012.

The incidence of cancer by county of residence in Texas for the years 2008 through 2012 is tracked by the Texas Cancer Registry in cooperation with the National Program of Cancer Registries through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The state of Texas during this timeframe had a rate of 395.3 occurrences per 100,000 population. Andrews County and Winkler County exhibited slightly lower rates than the state rate at 383.6 and 392.0 occurrences, respectively. Ector County and Winkler County had 394.7 occurrences and Gaines County had 280.1 occurrences, both below the state rate in 2012 (TDSHS Texas Cancer Registry 2015).

The following tables compare the rate per 100,000 persons of various causes of death for Lea County and the State of New Mexico for the year 2013. The data are included for males and females, regardless of race. With the exception of intentional self-harm (suicide), the number of deaths related to firearms, alcohol and drugs, injuries at work, and homicides were all higher in Lea County, New Mexico, compared with the state. Rates for male deaths were all higher than female deaths in all causes. The highest rates for causes of death in Lea County occurred in males for firearms (38.9 deaths per 100,000 population) with drug-induced deaths in males at 32.6. The lowest rates of causes of deaths in Lea County were no female deaths due to injury at work, along with 2.6 deaths per 100,000 for alcohol-induced deaths in females. Male alcohol-induced deaths (31.5 deaths per 100,000) and intentional self-harm (suicide) at 30.7 deaths per 100,000 were highest within the state of New Mexico and higher than the same rates in males in Lea County, New Mexico (see **Table 1-13**).

The New Mexico Indicator-Based Information System (NM-IBIS) is a database that provides information on New Mexico's priority public health issues. NM-IBIS has partnered with New Mexico's Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (NM-EPHT). According to the NM-IBIS, between 1999 and 2013, Lea County had approximately 762.5 deaths per 100,000 individuals. The majority of the deaths documented were related to circulatory/heart disease, malignant neoplasms, and causes other than the National Center for Health Statistics' (NCHS) 50 leading causes (**Table 1-14**). Lea County deaths were low per 100,000 individuals for categories such as nutritional deficiencies, chronic liver disease, viral hepatitis, and renal disease (NMDH, NM-IBIS 2015).

The NM-IBIS also provided calculated life expectancy by county from birth from 1993–2013 by race. Statewide the highest average life expectancy was within Asian or Pacific Islanders at 84.6 years, with White and Hispanic populations at 78.7 and 78.3 years, respectively. Lea County, New Mexico, life expectancies were slightly different than the statewide expectancies with American Indian or Alaska Native populations at 85 years. Asian or Pacific Islander (81 years) and White populations (75.9 years) were lower than the statewide average. Hispanic populations were slightly older at 80.4 years in Lea County, New Mexico (**Table 1-15**).

### 1.1.3 Ethnic and Racial Distribution

The term "minority population" is not clearly defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. The minority population for this document is to include the five racial categories of Hispanic or Latino, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. Data also include those individuals who declared some other race or two or more races.

| Table 1-13: Causes of Death (per 100,000) for Lea County and the State of New Mexico (2013) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Firearms | | | Alcohol-induced | | | Drug-induced | | | Injury at work | | | Intentional self-harm (suicide) | | | Assault (homicide) | | |
| | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes | Male | Female | Both Sexes |
| **Lea Co., NM** | 38.9 | 7.1 | 23.2 | 15.8 | 2.6 | 9.3 | 32.6 | 16.6 | 24.8 | 6.5 | 0 | 3.4 | 27.3 | 4.1 | 15.7 | 18.4 | 6 | 12.4 |
| **New Mexico** | 26.3 | 4.8 | 15.3 | 31.5 | 12.8 | 21.8 | 28.1 | 16.8 | 22.5 | 3.2 | 0.1 | 1.6 | 30.7 | 9.7 | 20 | 10.5 | 2.9 | 6.7 |

Source: New Mexico Selected Health Statistics Annual Report 2013, The State Center for Health Statistics, Tables M-20 and M-22, Age-adjusted death rates are the numbers of deaths per 100,000 U.S. standard population.

| Table 1-14: Mortality Ratios by Cause of Death, 1999–2013 Lea County, New Mexico | |
|---|---|
| **National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) 50 Leading Causes*** | **Deaths per 100,000 Population** |
| Overall Deaths | 762.5 |
| Circulatory, Heart disease | 180.4 |
| Causes other than NCHS 50 leading causes | 152.5 |
| Neoplasm, malignant | 140.8 |
| Respiratory, Chronic lower respiratory diseases | 55.7 |
| Injury, Unintentional injuries | 49.9 |
| Diabetes mellitus | 32.3 |
| Circulatory, Cerebrovascular diseases | 26.4 |
| Respiratory, Influenza and pneumonia | 20.5 |
| Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis | 16.1 |
| Injury, Intentional self-harm (suicide) | 14.7 |
| Septicemia | 13.2 |
| Injury, Homicide | 11.7 |
| Alzheimer's disease | 8.8 |
| Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis | 8.8 |
| Parkinson's disease | 4.4 |
| Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period | 4.4 |
| Viral hepatitis | 2.9 |
| Neoplasm, In situ, benign and of uncertain or unknown behavior | 2.9 |
| Circulatory, Aortic aneurysm and dissection | 2.9 |
| Respiratory, Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids | 2.9 |
| Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities | 2.9 |
| Nutritional deficiencies | 1.5 |
| Circulatory, Essential (primary) hypertension and hypertensive renal disease | 1.5 |
| Cholelithiasis and other disorders of gallbladder | 1.5 |
| Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium | 1.5 |
| Injury, Complications of medical and surgical care | 1.5 |

Source: New Mexico Department of Health, New Mexico's Indicator-Based Information System, Query Results for Mortality Data, Years 1999 to 2013 - Leading Causes of Death, Crude Rates (Deaths per 100,000), https://ibis.health.state.nm.us/query/builder/mort/MortCnty/LCDCrudeRate.html.

*Table does not include causes of death that are not statistically significant.

| Table 1-15: Life Expectancy From Birth, 1999–2013 (Lea County and NM) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NM Race and Ethnicity | Overall | White | Black or African American | Hispanic | American Indian or Alaska Native | Asian or Pacific Islander |
| New Mexico State | 78 | 78.7 | 75.5 | 78.3 | 72.5 | 84.6 |
| Lea County, NM | 77 | 75.9 | 68.2 | 80.4 | 85 | 81 |

Source: New Mexico Department of Health, New Mexico's Indicator-Based Information System, Query Results for Query Module for Life Expectancy, Years 1999 to 2013 - Life Expectancy from Birth, https://ibis.health.state.nm.us/query/builder/mort/MortCntyLifeExp/LifeExpBirth.html.

Based on U.S. Census Bureau data in 2010 (**Table 1-16**), the minority populations of project area counties in the ROI were as follows: Andrews County was 52.1 percent minority; Gaines County was 39.4 percent minority; Winkler County was 57.5 percent minority; Ector County was 58.9 percent minority; and Lea County, New Mexico was 57.0 percent minority. By comparison, the percentages at the state level were 59.5 percent (New Mexico) and 44.3 percent (Texas). The city closest to the WCS facility is Eunice, New Mexico, which had a minority population of 49.9 percent in 2010. The Hispanic or Latino populations are the largest percentages of minorities within the ROI, ranging from 36.6 percent of the population in Gaines County to 53.8 percent in Winkler County. Black or African American was the next-largest share, with percentages ranging from 0.9 to 5.6 percent, depending on the location. Census tracts are shown on **Figure 1.1-1, Census Geographies**.

Within Andrews County, Texas, there are three census tracts (CT) in the ROI (CT 9501, 9502, and 9504). Within these census tracts, the largest percentages of minorities occur in CT 9504, with 48.7 percent of the population as Hispanic or Latino. This is comparable to Hispanic or Latino population percentages of 48.7 percent within Andrews County, Texas. Black or American Africans are the second largest population of minorities in CT 9502 at 1.8 percent, which is comparable to the second largest population within Andrews County, Texas (1.7 percent). CT 9501 has 1.5 percent Asian population, which is the second largest in CT 9502, with Hispanic or Latino populations being the largest percentage within the tract (45.5 percent) (see **Figure 1.1-2, Minority Populations in the Region of Interest**).

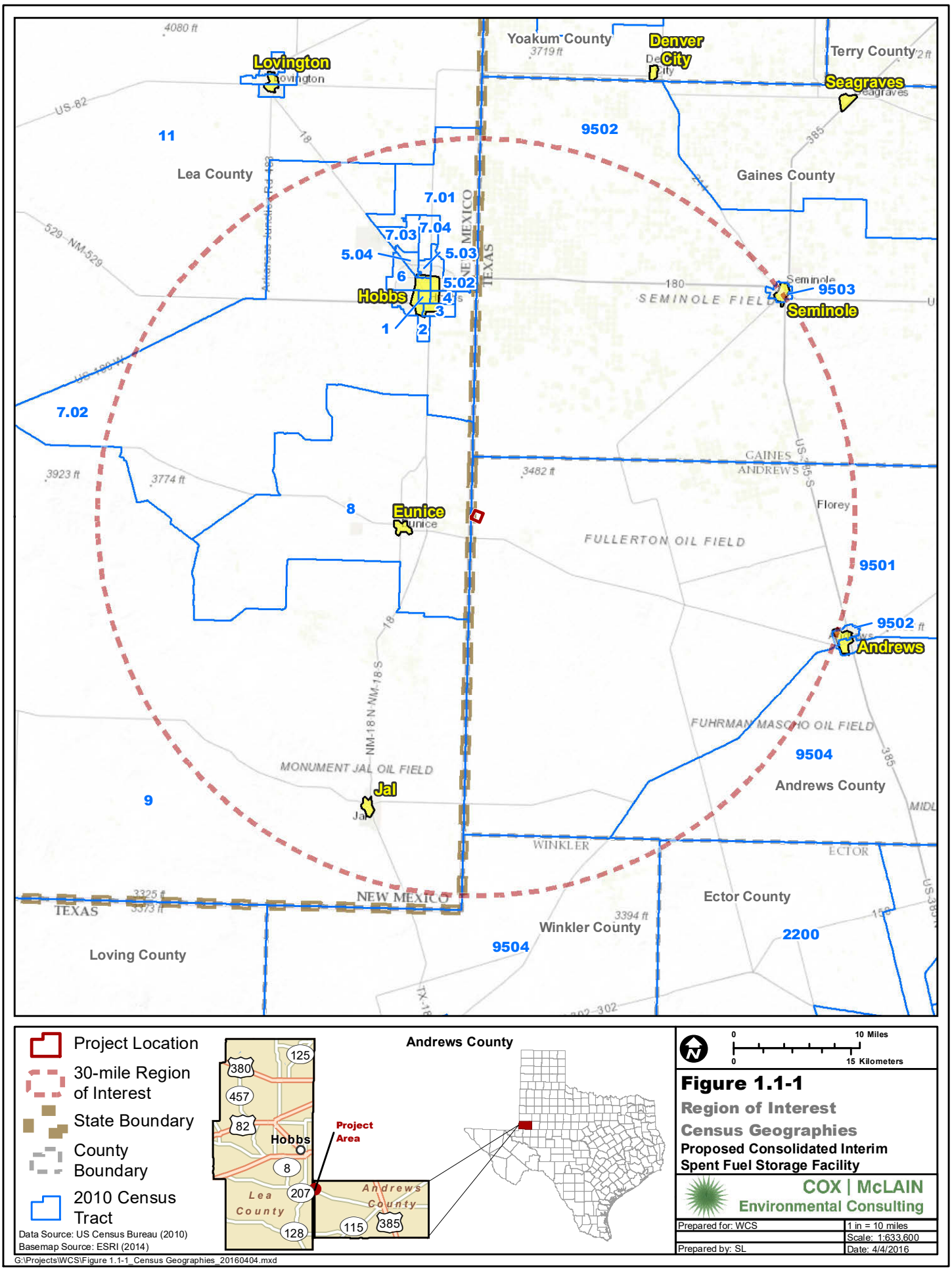
Ector County, Texas, contains one census tract within the ROI (CT 22). Minority populations in this census tract were predominantly Hispanic or Latino (71.4 percent), with two or more races the next highest at 0.6 percent. Ector County, Texas, as a whole has lower percentages of minority persons (58.9 percent) than CT 22.

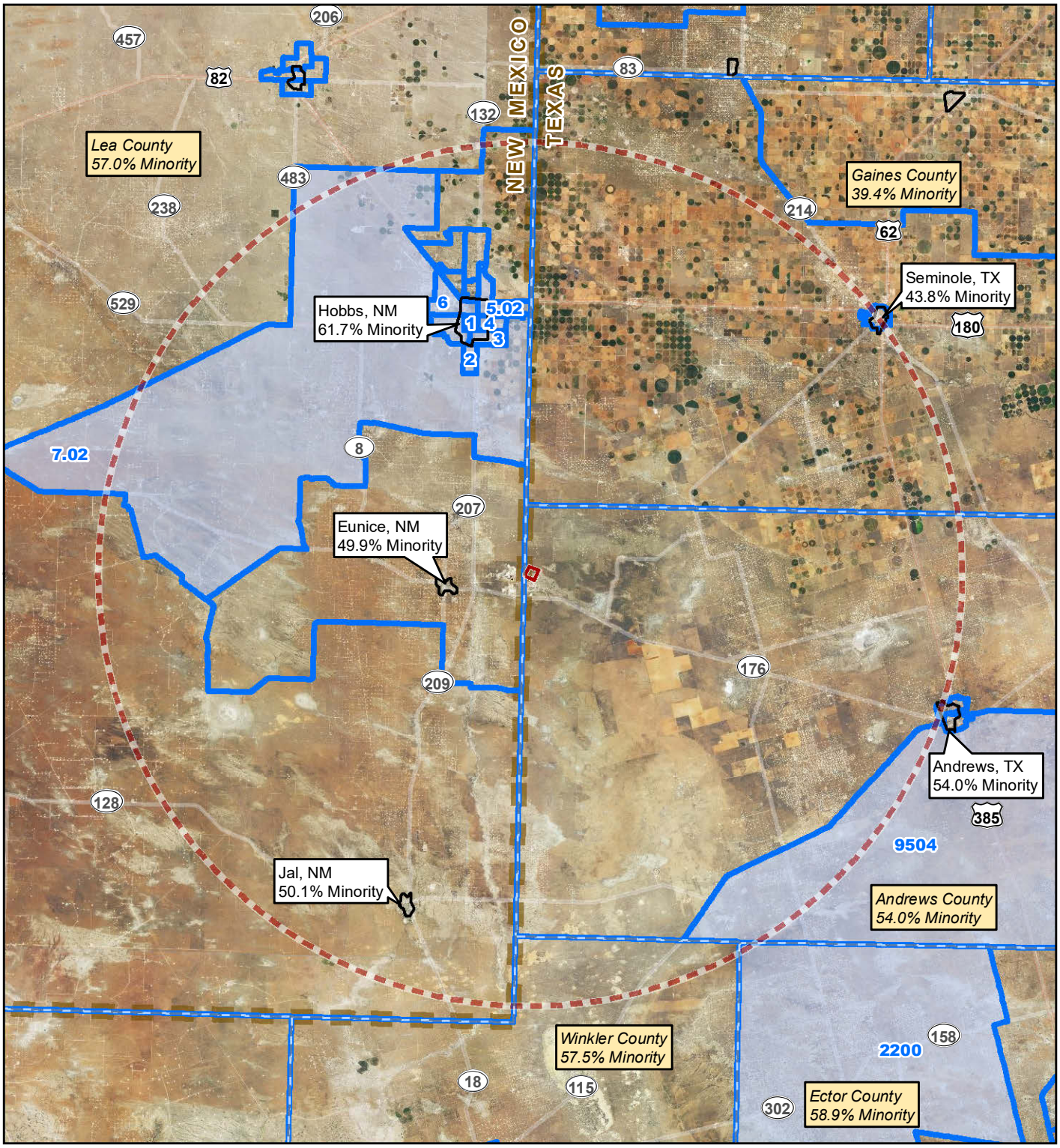
## Table 1-16: Racial and Ethnic Distribution by Census Tracts (2010)

| Census 2010 Geography | | Race and Ethnicity | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Census Tracts | Total Population | White Alone Number of persons | Percent White Alone | African American Alone Number of persons | Percent Black or African American Alone | American Indian and Alaska Native Alone Number of persons | Percent American Indian and Alaska Native Alone | Asian Alone Number of persons | Percent Asian Alone | Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone Number of persons | Percent Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone | Some Other Race Alone Number of persons | Percent Some Other Race Alone | Two or More Races Number of persons | Percent Two or More Races | Hispanic or Latino of Any Race Number of persons | Percent Hispanic or Latino of Any Race | Minority Number of persons | Percent Minority |
| Andrews County, TX | 14,786 | 7,083 | 47.9% | 199 | 1.3% | 95 | 0.6% | 85 | 0.6% | 1 | - | 17 | 0.1% | 111 | 0.8% | 7,195 | 48.7% | 7,703 | 52.1% |
| Andrews, TX | 11,088 | 5,101 | 46% | 183 | 1.7% | 70 | 0.6% | 69 | 0.6% | 1 | - | 14 | 0.1% | 84 | 0.8% | 5,566 | 50.2% | 5,987 | 54% |
| Census Tract 9501 | 1,678 | 1,142 | 68.1% | 6 | 0.4% | 5 | 0.3% | 26 | 1.5% | - | - | 2 | 0.1% | 14 | 0.8% | 483 | 28.8% | 536 | 31.9% |
| Census Tract 9502 | 6,473 | 3,275 | 50.6% | 116 | 1.8% | 40 | 0.6% | 36 | 0.6% | 1 | - | 5 | 0.1% | 52 | 0.8% | 2,948 | 45.5% | 3,198 | 49.4% |
| Census Tract 9504 | 2,711 | 1,329 | 49% | 13 | 0.5% | 23 | 0.8% | 9 | 0.3% | - | - | 3 | 0.1% | 15 | 0.6% | 1,319 | 48.7% | 1,382 | **51%** |
| Ector County, TX | 137,130 | 56,306 | 41.1% | 5,596 | 4.1% | 623 | 0.5% | 1,004 | 0.7% | 106 | 0.1% | 68 | - | 1,096 | 0.8% | 72,331 | 52.7% | 80,824 | 58.9% |
| Census Tract 22 | 3,117 | 853 | 27.4% | 14 | 0.4% | 5 | 0.2% | - | - | - | - | - | - | 18 | 0.6% | 2,227 | 71.4% | 2,264 | **72.6%** |
| Gaines County, TX | 17,526 | 10,628 | 60.6% | 261 | 1.5% | 46 | 0.3% | 37 | 0.2% | - | - | 17 | 0.1% | 124 | 0.7% | 6,413 | 36.6% | 6,898 | 39.4% |
| Seminole, TX | 6,430 | 3,614 | 56.2% | 93 | 1.4% | 23 | 0.4% | 24 | 0.4% | - | - | 10 | 0.2% | 47 | 0.7% | 2,619 | 40.7% | 2,816 | 43.8% |
| Census Tract 9502 | 8,643 | 6,356 | 73.5% | 23 | 0.3% | 21 | 0.2% | 16 | 0.2% | - | - | 9 | 0.1% | 78 | 0.9% | 2,140 | 24.8% | 2,287 | 26.5% |
| Census Tract 9503 | 5,372 | 2,959 | 55.1% | 83 | 1.5% | 19 | 0.4% | 19 | 0.4% | - | - | 7 | 0.1% | 33 | 0.6% | 2,252 | 41.9% | 2,413 | 44.9% |
| Winkler County, TX | 7,110 | 3,024 | 42.5% | 129 | 1.8% | 29 | 0.4% | 16 | 0.2% | - | - | 43 | 0.6% | 45 | 0.6% | 3,824 | 53.8% | 4,086 | 57.5% |
| Census Tract 9504 | 1,424 | 882 | 61.9% | 11 | 0.8% | 6 | 0.4% | 1 | 0.1% | - | - | - | - | 11 | 0.8% | 513 | 36% | 542 | 38.1% |
| Lea County, NM | 64,727 | 27,845 | 43% | 2,399 | 3.7% | 468 | 0.7% | 302 | 0.5% | 18 | - | 51 | 0.1% | 581 | 0.9% | 33,063 | 51.1% | 36,882 | 57% |
| Eunice, NM | 2,922 | 1,464 | 50.1% | 27 | 0.9% | 11 | 0.4% | 3 | 0.1% | 2 | 0.1% | 5 | 0.2% | 22 | 0.8% | 1,388 | 47.5% | 1,458 | 49.9% |
| Hobbs, NM | 34,122 | 13,059 | 38.3% | 1,924 | 5.6% | 270 | 0.8% | 199 | 0.6% | 14 | - | 24 | 0.1% | 315 | 0.9% | 18,317 | 53.7% | 21,063 | 61.7% |
| Jal, NM | 2,047 | 1,021 | 49.9% | 12 | 0.6% | 10 | 0.5% | 2 | 0.1% | - | - | 1 | - | 16 | 0.8% | 985 | 48.1% | 1,026 | 50.1% |
| Census Tract 1 | 2,812 | 571 | 20.3% | 119 | 4.2% | 18 | 0.6% | 7 | 0.2% | 1 | - | 1 | - | 27 | 1% | 2,068 | 73.5% | 2,241 | **79.7%** |
| Census Tract 2 | 3,431 | 806 | 23.5% | 126 | 3.7% | 34 | 1% | 4 | 0.1% | 2 | 0.1% | - | - | 27 | 0.8% | 2,432 | 70.9% | 2,625 | **76.5%** |
| Census Tract 3 | 3,909 | 545 | 13.9% | 363 | 9.3% | 12 | 0.3% | 6 | 0.2% | 2 | 0.1% | - | - | 27 | 0.7% | 2,954 | 75.6% | 3,364 | **86.1%** |
| Census Tract 4 | 3,406 | 634 | 18.6% | 459 | 13.5% | 17 | 0.5% | 5 | 0.1% | 6 | 0.2% | 5 | 0.1% | 22 | 0.6% | 2,258 | 66.3% | 2,772 | **81.4%** |
| Census Tract 5.02 | 6,244 | 2,841 | 45.5% | 295 | 4.7% | 38 | 0.6% | 33 | 0.5% | - | - | 2 | - | 67 | 1.1% | 2,968 | 47.5% | 3,403 | **54.5%** |
| Census Tract 5.03 | 3,743 | 2,261 | 60.4% | 126 | 3.4% | 24 | 0.6% | 39 | 1% | 1 | - | 2 | 0.1% | 38 | 1% | 1,252 | 33.4% | 1,482 | 39.6% |
| Census Tract 5.04 | 3,635 | 2,525 | 69.5% | 105 | 2.9% | 19 | 0.5% | 42 | 1.2% | 1 | - | 7 | 0.2% | 56 | 1.5% | 880 | 24.2% | 1,110 | 30.5% |
| Census Tract 6 | 6,487 | 2,822 | 43.5% | 263 | 4.1% | 33 | 0.5% | 35 | 0.5% | 1 | - | 8 | 0.1% | 54 | 0.8% | 3,271 | 50.4% | 3,665 | **56.5%** |
| Census Tract 7.01 | 1,489 | 1,036 | 69.6% | 7 | 0.5% | 11 | 0.7% | 2 | 0.1% | - | - | - | - | 6 | 0.4% | 427 | 28.7% | 453 | 30.4% |
| Census Tract 7.02 | 3,263 | 1,458 | 44.7% | 138 | 4.2% | 100 | 3.1% | 6 | 0.2% | - | - | 2 | 0.1% | 23 | 0.7% | 1,536 | 47.1% | 1,805 | **55.3%** |
| Census Tract 7.03 | 2,321 | 1,660 | 71.5% | 60 | 2.6% | 8 | 0.3% | 36 | 1.6% | 1 | - | 1 | - | 20 | 0.9% | 535 | 23.1% | 661 | 28.5% |
| Census Tract 7.04 | 2,565 | 1,500 | 58.5% | 42 | 1.6% | 17 | 0.7% | 30 | 1.2% | - | - | 2 | 0.1% | 35 | 1.4% | 939 | 36.6% | 1,065 | 41.5% |
| Census Tract 8 | 3,220 | 1,676 | 52% | 30 | 0.9% | 11 | 0.3% | 3 | 0.1% | 2 | 0.1% | 5 | 0.2% | 25 | 0.8% | 1,468 | 45.6% | 1,544 | 48% |
| Census Tract 9 | 2,175 | 1,114 | 51.2% | 12 | 0.6% | 13 | 0.6% | 3 | 0.1% | - | - | 1 | - | 22 | 1% | 1,010 | 46.4% | 1,061 | 48.8% |
| Census Tract 11 | 4,557 | 2,599 | 57% | 22 | 0.5% | 29 | 0.6% | 13 | 0.3% | 1 | - | - | - | 41 | 0.9% | 1,852 | 40.6% | 1,958 | 43% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Census 2010, Summary File 1, Table P9.

Note: Census Tracts that contain minority populations equal to or higher than 50 percent are bolded.


Lovington
Denver City
Seagraves
Seminole
Hobbs
Eunice
Jal
Andrews
Yoakum County
Terry County
Lea County
Gaines County
Andrews County
Ector County
Winkler County
Loving County
NEW MEXICO
TEXAS
SEMINOLE FIELD
FULLERTON OIL FIELD
FUHRMAN MASCHO OIL FIELD
MONUMENT JAL OIL FIELD
11
9502
7.01
7.04
7.03
5.04
5.03
6
5.02
4
3
1
2
9503
7.02
8
9501
9502
9504
9
9504
2200
Project Location
30-mile Region of Interest
State Boundary
County Boundary
2010 Census Tract
Data Source: US Census Bureau (2010)
Basemap Source: ESRI (2014)
Project Area
Hobbs
Lea County
Andrews County
Andrews County
0 10 Miles
0 15 Kilometers
Figure 1.1-1
Region of Interest
Census Geographies
Proposed Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility
COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting
Prepared for: WCS
1 in = 10 miles
Scale: 1:633,600
Prepared by: SL
Date: 4/4/2016
G:\Projects\WCS\Figure 1.1-1_Census Geographies_20160404.mxd




Project Location
30-mile Region of Interest
2010 Census Tract
Census Tract with >50% Minority Population
State Boundary
County Boundary

Data Source: US Census Bureau (2010)
Aerial Source: NAIP (2014)
G:\Projects\WCS\Figure 1.1-2_Minority_20160404.mxd

0 10 Miles
0 15 Kilometers

**Figure 1.1-2**
**Minority Populations in the Region of Interest**
**Proposed Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility**

COX | McLAIN Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 10 miles |
| | Scale: 1:633,600 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 4/4/2016 |

Gaines County, Texas, contains two census tracts within the ROI (CT 9502 and 9503). Minority populations range from 26.5 to 44.9 percent within these tracts, in comparison to 39.4 percent in Gaines County, and 43.8 percent for the city of Seminole, Texas. The largest percentage of minorities within the county was Hispanic or Latino populations at 40.7 percent. In both Gaines County census tracts, the largest percentage of minorities was also Hispanic or Latino populations, with 24.8 (CT 9502) and 41.9 percent (CT 9503).

Winkler County, Texas, has one census tract, CT 9504, within the ROI. The percent minorities within the census tract was 38.1 percent compared to 57.5 percent for the county as a whole. Within CT 9504, the largest minority population was Hispanic or Latino, at 36 percent.

Lea County, New Mexico, contains 15 census tracts within the ROI. Minority populations within these tracts ranged from 28.5 percent (CT 7.03) to 86.1 percent (CT 3). Within CT 7.03 the highest percentage of minority populations was Hispanic or Latinos (23.1 percent), Hispanic or Latino populations were highest in CT 3 (75.6 percent).

Lea County, New Mexico, also contains the cities of Eunice, Hobbs, and Jal. Minority populations within Eunice, New Mexico, were 49.9 percent with 47.5 percent of the population as Hispanic or Latino, and within Hobbs, New Mexico, 61.7 percent of the population was a minority with highest percentage as also Hispanic or Latino (53.7 percent). Jal, New Mexico, minority populations as a whole were 50.1 percent, with Hispanic or Latino populations having the highest percentage of minorities (48.1 percent).

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations were determined using census tract level data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2009–2013 American Community Survey (ACS) data. Census tracts within a 30-mile radius of the proposed project were assessed. Within the population that is five years of age and older, persons who speak English less than "very well" are considered to have a limited English proficiency. The populations that speak English less than "very well," according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2009–2013 ACS, are presented in **Table 1-17**.

As shown in **Table 1-17**, the LEP populations in the individual census tracts for all counties within the project area range from approximately 0.9 to 30.0 percent of the total populations. Of the 10,497 people within the census tracts in the ROI within Andrews County, Texas, persons that speak English less than "very well" ranged from 9 to 15.6 percent. The majority of the populations were Spanish speakers (8.4 to 15.6 percent) with 0.6 to 2.4 percent Asian/Pacific language. In Ector County, Texas, there is one census tract that lies within the ROI, where approximately 26 percent of the 784 people speak English less than "very well," all of which are Spanish speaking. Of the 11,821 people in the two census tracts within the ROI in Seminole, Texas (Gaines County, Texas), approximately 12.7 to 19.7 percent speak English less than "very well." The highest percentage of persons that speak English less than "very well" within these census tracts was 7.1 percent Spanish and 12.3 percent Indo-European in CT 9502, and 10.6 percent Spanish and 2.1 percent Indo-European in CT 9503.

| Table 1-17: Limited English Proficiency (Population that Speaks English Less than "Very Well") (2009–2013) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Languages Spoken by LEP Populations | | | | | | | |
| Census Tract/ Block Group | Total Population 5 Years and Over | Number of LEP persons | Percent LEP persons | Spanish speakers (#) | Spanish speakers (%) | Indo-European (#) | Indo-European (%) | Asian/Pacific Island (#) | Asian/Pacific Island (%) | Other (#) | Other (%) |
| Andrews County, TX | 14,191 | 2,225 | 15.7% | 2,068 | 14.6% | - | - | 157 | 1.1% | - | - |
| Andrews, TX | 10,612 | 1,818 | 17.1% | 1,661 | 15.7% | - | - | 157 | 1.5% | - | - |
| Census Tract 9501 | 1,894 | 171 | 9% | 159 | 8.4% | - | - | 12 | 0.6% | - | - |
| Census Tract 9502 | 6,067 | 927 | 15.3% | 782 | 12.9% | - | - | 145 | 2.4% | - | - |
| Census Tract 9504 | 2,536 | 396 | 15.6% | 396 | 15.6% | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ector County, TX | 128,984 | 19,098 | 14.8% | 18,398 | 14.3% | 237 | 0.2% | 340 | 0.3% | 123 | 0.1% |
| Census Tract 22 | 3,019 | 784 | 26% | 784 | 26% | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Gaines County, TX | 16,204 | 2,825 | 17.4% | 1,698 | 10.5% | 1,100 | 6.8% | 27 | 0.2% | - | - |
| Seminole, TX | 5,972 | 663 | 11.1% | 545 | 9.1% | 118 | 2% | - | - | - | - |
| Census Tract 9502 | 7,899 | 1,555 | 19.7% | 560 | 7.1% | 968 | 12.3% | 27 | 0.3% | - | - |
| Census Tract 9503 | 5,019 | 635 | 12.7% | 531 | 10.6% | 104 | 2.1% | - | - | - | - |
| Winkler County, TX | 6,644 | 1,146 | 17.2% | 1,137 | 17.1% | - | - | 9 | 0.1% | - | - |
| Census Tract 9504 | 1,512 | 204 | 13.5% | 195 | 12.9% | - | - | 9 | 0.6% | - | - |
| Lea County, NM | 59,945 | 7,926 | 13.2% | 7,848 | 13.1% | 38 | 0.1% | 25 | 0.0% | 15 | 0.0% |
| Eunice, NM | 2,756 | 517 | 18.8% | 517 | 18.8% | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hobbs, NM | 31,397 | 4,034 | 12.8% | 3,996 | 12.7% | 23 | 0.1% | - | - | 15 | 0.0% |
| Jal, NM | 1,939 | 180 | 9.3% | 180 | 9.3% | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Census Tract 1 | 2,213 | 665 | 30% | 659 | 29.8% | 6 | 0.3% | - | - | - | - |
| Census Tract 2 | 3,018 | 599 | 19.8% | 590 | 19.5% | - | - | - | - | 9 | 0.3% |
| Census Tract 3 | 3,269 | 832 | 25.5% | 832 | 25.5% | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Census Tract 4 | 3,372 | 688 | 20.4% | 688 | 20.4% | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Census Tract 5.02 | 5,444 | 452 | 8.3% | 452 | 8.3% | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Census Tract 5.03 | 3,426 | 233 | 6.8% | 233 | 6.8% | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Census Tract 5.04 | 3,381 | 31 | 0.9% | 31 | 0.9% | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Census Tract 6 | 6,257 | 522 | 8.3% | 505 | 8.1% | 17 | 0.3% | - | - | - | - |
| Census Tract 7.01 | 1,691 | 67 | 4% | 67 | 4% | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Census Tract 7.02 | 3,184 | 140 | 4.4% | 125 | 3.9% | 15 | 0.5% | - | - | - | - |
| Census Tract 7.03 | 2,295 | 105 | 4.6% | 99 | 4.3% | - | - | - | - | 6 | 0.3% |
| Census Tract 7.04 | 2,540 | 240 | 9.4% | 226 | 8.9% | - | - | 14 | 0.6% | - | - |
| Census Tract 8 | 2,987 | 517 | 17.3% | 517 | 17.3% | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Census Tract 9 | 2,041 | 225 | 11% | 214 | 10.5% | - | - | 11 | 0.5% | - | - |
| Census Tract 11 | 4,488 | 562 | 12.5% | 562 | 12.5% | - | - | - | - | - | 0% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2013 ACS Table B16004.

ACS data are estimates; they are not counts.

Of the 1,512 people who live within the one census tract in the ROI in Winkler County, Texas, approximately 13.5 percent speak English less than "very well," most of which are Spanish speaking (12.9 percent) and 0.6 percent Asian/Pacific language. Of the 49,606 people within the 15 census blocks groups within the ROI in Lea County, New Mexico, populations that speak English less than "very well" ranged from 0.9 to 30 percent. These percentages were largely Spanish speaking, ranging from 0.9 to 28.8 percent of the population, with 0.3 to 0.6 percent in either Indo-European, Asian/Pacific, or other languages (see **Figure 1.1-3, Limited English Proficiency in the Region of Interest**).

### 1.1.4 Housing Characteristics by Race/Ethnicity, Including Owner Renter, Value, Rent

Data for housing characteristics (**Table 1-18**) shows the majority of housing units are owner-occupied: 72,268 units or 69.4 percent are owned by residents in the ROI. The median value for owner-occupied housing for Lea County, New Mexico, is $97,200, Andrews County $88,600, Gaines County $93,000, $45,100 for Winkler County, and $91,200 for Ector County. These values are lower than the state median values of $160,000 (New Mexico) and $128,900 (Texas). The ROI is 69.4 percent owner-occupied housing, compared to 68.5 percent in New Mexico and 63.7 percent in Texas. In the ROI, most owner-occupied housing units are occupied by White persons (54.9%) followed by Hispanic or Latino persons (40.8%) and Black or African American persons (2.6%).

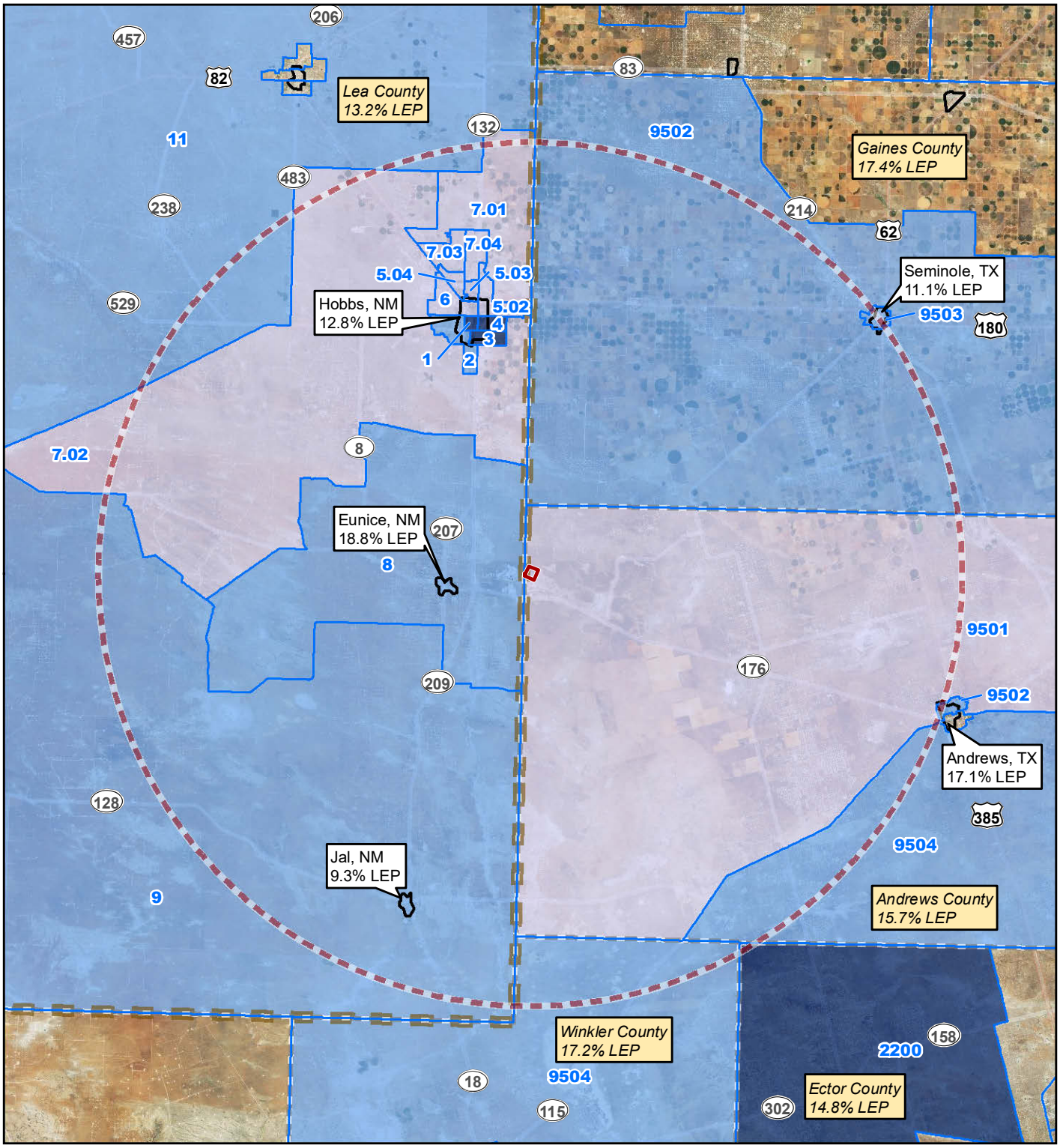



**Figure 1.1-3**

**Limited English Proficiency in the Region of Interest**

**Proposed Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility**

COX | McLAIN Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 10 miles |
| | Scale: 1:633,600 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 4/4/2016 |

Data Source: US Census Bureau (2010)
Aerial Source: NAIP (2014)

G:\Projects\WCS\Figure 1.1-3_LEP_20160404.mxd

| Table 1-18: Housing Characteristics in the Region of Interest (2010; 2009–2013) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Housing Status** | **Lea County, NM** | **Eunice, NM** | **Hobbs, NM** | **Jal, NM** | **Andrews County, TX** | **Andrews, TX** | **Gaines County, TX** | **Seminole, TX** | **Winkler County, TX** | **Ector County, TX** | **New Mexico** | **Texas** |
| **Total housing units** | **24,919** | **1,264** | **12,900** | **1,009** | **5,814** | **4,379** | **6,301** | **2,506** | **3,027** | **53,027** | **901,388** | **9,977,436** |
| Occupied housing units | 22,236 | 1,073 | 11,629 | 788 | 5,259 | 3,999 | 5,606 | 2,275 | 2,578 | 48,688 | 791,395 | 8,922,933 |
| Vacant housing units | 2,683 | 191 | 1,271 | 221 | 555 | 380 | 695 | 231 | 449 | 4,339 | 109,993 | 1,054,503 |
| **Occupied housing units** | **22,236** | **1,073** | **11,629** | **788** | **5,259** | **3,999** | **5,606** | **2,275** | **2,578** | **48,688** | **791,395** | **8,922,933** |
| Owner occupied | 15,434 | 835 | 7,307 | 623 | 4,020 | 2,942 | 4,324 | 1,739 | 2,094 | 32,950 | 542,122 | 5,685,353 |
| Renter occupied | 6,802 | 238 | 4,322 | 165 | 1,239 | 1,057 | 1,282 | 536 | 484 | 15,738 | 249,273 | 3,237,580 |
| **Vacant housing units** | **2,683** | **191** | **1,271** | **221** | **555** | **380** | **695** | **231** | **449** | **4,339** | **109,993** | **1,054,503** |
| For rent | 867 | 50 | 606 | 29 | 94 | 86 | 144 | 59 | 46 | 1,800 | 22,150 | 394,310 |
| For sale only | 187 | 11 | 83 | 11 | 72 | 65 | 78 | 40 | 29 | 483 | 11,050 | 121,430 |
| Sold, not occupied | 46 | 8 | 16 | 1 | 52 | 30 | 54 | 22 | 47 | 491 | 2,143 | 30,437 |
| Rented, not occupied | 47 | 8 | 20 | 6 | 13 | 11 | 13 | 3 | 14 | 108 | 1,303 | 16,509 |
| For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use | 217 | 14 | 89 | 12 | 80 | 42 | 73 | 24 | 40 | 240 | 36,612 | 208,733 |
| For migratory workers | 13 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 17 | 2 | 2 | 21 | 229 | 2,209 |
| Other vacant | 1,306 | 100 | 455 | 162 | 240 | 143 | 316 | 81 | 271 | 1,196 | 36,506 | 280,875 |
| Median Value for Owner- Occupied Housing Units* | 97,200 | 90,300 | 98,200 | 63,900 | 88,600 | 79,600 | 93,000 | 92,100 | 45,100 | 91,200 | 160,000 | 128,900 |
| Median Rent ** | 734 | 651 | 812 | 671 | 769 | 793 | 657 | 863 | 575 | 789 | 758 | 851 |
| **Occupied housing units** | **22,236** | **1,073** | **11,629** | **788** | **5,259** | **3,999** | **5,606** | **2,275** | **2,578** | **48,688** | **791,395** | **8,922,933** |
| **Owner-occupied housing units** | **15,434** | **835** | **7,307** | **623** | **4,020** | **2,942** | **4,324** | **1,739** | **2,094** | **32,950** | **542,122** | **5,685,353** |
| White alone householder | 8,773 | 498 | 3,833 | 382 | 2,334 | 1,652 | 2,850 | 1,115 | 1,081 | 17,187 | 282,929 | 3,435,141 |
| Black or African American alone householder | 424 | 9 | 337 | 3 | 44 | 40 | 52 | 22 | 47 | 903 | 6,612 | 478,340 |
| American Indian and Alaska Native alone householder | 87 | 2 | 41 | 2 | 33 | 20 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 175 | 33,771 | 19,840 |
| Asian alone householder | 52 | 0 | 35 | 1 | 16 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 198 | 5,341 | 188,010 |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone householder | 5 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 225 | 2,553 |
| Some Other Race alone householder | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 14 | 899 | 4,832 |
| Two or More Races householder | 101 | 5 | 41 | 5 | 22 | 18 | 31 | 15 | 11 | 182 | 4,821 | 46,313 |
| Hispanic or Latino householder | 5,986 | 320 | 3,016 | 230 | 1,567 | 1,196 | 1,375 | 573 | 944 | 14,286 | 207,524 | 1,510,324 |

| Table 1-18: Housing Characteristics in the Region of Interest (2010; 2009–2013) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Housing Status** | **Lea County, NM** | **Eunice, NM** | **Hobbs, NM** | **Jal, NM** | **Andrews County, TX** | **Andrews, TX** | **Gaines County, TX** | **Seminole, TX** | **Winkler County, TX** | **Ector County, TX** | **New Mexico** | **Texas** |
| **Renter-occupied housing units** | **6,802** | **238** | **4,322** | **165** | **1,239** | **1,057** | **1,282** | **536** | **484** | **15,738** | **249,273** | **3,237,580** |
| White alone householder | 3,000 | 124 | 1,818 | 83 | 639 | 542 | 693 | 281 | 257 | 7,065 | 109,350 | 1,368,439 |
| Black or African American alone householder | 469 | 4 | 408 | 3 | 25 | 24 | 35 | 11 | 14 | 1,206 | 7,950 | 589,768 |
| American Indian and Alaska Native alone householder | 60 | 3 | 38 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 99 | 17,743 | 12,232 |
| Asian alone householder | 45 | 1 | 33 | 0 | 14 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 134 | 3,701 | 115,429 |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone householder | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 207 | 2,849 |
| Some Other Race alone householder | 8 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 15 | 477 | 4,362 |
| Two or More Races householder | 48 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 156 | 3,921 | 40,668 |
| Hispanic or Latino householder | 3,170 | 104 | 1,984 | 77 | 550 | 471 | 545 | 238 | 199 | 7,042 | 105,924 | 1,103,833 |

Source U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 QT-H1

*ACS 2009–2013 Table B25077.

** ACS 2009–2013 Table DP04.

### 1.1.5 Households by Type

**Table 1-19** indicates that in 2010, the majority of households were owner-occupied and the largest groups of the householders were the age groups of 45 to 54 years and 65 years and over. The average household size was 2.8 persons for the ROI.

As defined by the Census, "Contract Rent" and "Gross Rent" are somewhat different. For the ROI, the data are virtually the same.

**Contract rent**: The monthly rent agreed to or contracted for, regardless of any furnishing, utilities, fees, meals, or services that may be included. For vacant units, it is the monthly rent asked for the rental unit at the time of the interview.

Within the ROI, 31,863 or 30.6 percent of housing units were renter-occupied. **Tables 1-20** and **1-21** show the median rent asked and the range of contract and gross rent for the renter-occupied housing. The highest median contract rent asked was within Seminole, Texas ($702 per month), higher than the Texas state average of $688 and even higher than the state average for New Mexico at $635. The lowest median contract rent asked was in Winkler County, Texas, at $391 per month.

**Gross rent**: The amount of the contract rent plus the estimated average of monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, water, and sewer) and fuels (oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc.) if these are paid for by the renter (or paid for the renter by someone else). Gross rent is intended to eliminate differentials that result from varying practices with respect to the inclusion of utilities and fuels in the rental payment.

The highest gross rent was within Seminole, Texas ($863 per month), higher than the New Mexico and Texas state medians of $758 and $851, respectively. The lowest median gross rent was also in Winkler County at $575 per month.

| Table 1-19: Tenure, Household Size and Age of Householder in the Region of Interest (2010) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Housing Status** | **Lea County, New Mexico** | **Eunice, New Mexico** | **Hobbs, New Mexico** | **Jal, New Mexico** | **Andrews County, Texas** | **Andrews, Texas** | **Gaines County, Texas** | **Seminole, Texas** | **Winkler County, Texas** | **Ector County, Texas** | **New Mexico** | **Texas** |
| **Total housing units** | **24,919** | **1,264** | **12,900** | **1,009** | **5,814** | **4,379** | **6,301** | **2,506** | **3,027** | **53,027** | **901,388** | **9,977,436** |
| Occupied housing units | 22,236 | 1,073 | 11,629 | 788 | 5,259 | 3,999 | 5,606 | 2,275 | 2,578 | 48,688 | 791,395 | 8,922,933 |
| Vacant housing units | 2,683 | 191 | 1,271 | 221 | 555 | 380 | 695 | 231 | 449 | 4,339 | 109,993 | 1,054,503 |
| **Occupied housing units** | **22,236** | **1,073** | **11,629** | **788** | **5,259** | **3,999** | **5,606** | **2,275** | **2,578** | **48,688** | **791,395** | **8,922,933** |
| Owner occupied | 15,434 | 835 | 7,307 | 623 | 4,020 | 2,942 | 4,324 | 1,739 | 2,094 | 32,950 | 542,122 | 5,685,353 |
| Renter occupied | 6,802 | 238 | 4,322 | 165 | 1,239 | 1,057 | 1,282 | 536 | 484 | 15,738 | 249,273 | 3,237,580 |
| **Average household size**** | 2.82 | 2.72 | 2.81 | 2.6 | 2.80 | 2.75 | 3.11 | 2.79 | 2.72 | 2.77 | 2.55 | 2.75 |
| **Age of Householder** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Owner-occupied housing units* | 15,434 | 835 | 7,307 | 623 | 4,020 | 2,942 | 4,324 | 1,739 | 2,094 | 32,950 | 542,122 | 5,685,353 |
| 15 to 24 years | 472 | 32 | 237 | 18 | 134 | 110 | 182 | 66 | 61 | 988 | 10,185 | 77,434 |
| 25 to 34 years | 2,272 | 144 | 1,148 | 64 | 563 | 439 | 750 | 290 | 298 | 4,846 | 56,531 | 659,840 |
| 35 to 44 years | 2,514 | 131 | 1,201 | 93 | 685 | 503 | 769 | 285 | 329 | 5,644 | 83,630 | 1,113,632 |
| 45 to 54 years | 3,419 | 195 | 1,563 | 133 | 942 | 658 | 1,024 | 394 | 492 | 7,535 | 121,364 | 1,360,235 |
| 55 to 64 years | 2,980 | 150 | 1,352 | 114 | 773 | 537 | 721 | 300 | 409 | 6,477 | 123,328 | 1,167,002 |
| 65 years and over | 3,777 | 183 | 1,806 | 201 | 923 | 695 | 878 | 404 | 505 | 7,460 | 147,084 | 1,307,210 |
| Renter-occupied housing units* | 6,802 | 238 | 4,322 | 165 | 1,239 | 1,057 | 1,282 | 536 | 484 | 15,738 | 249,273 | 3,237,580 |
| 15 to 24 years | 945 | 34 | 653 | 22 | 175 | 150 | 185 | 80 | 55 | 2,475 | 33,360 | 431,700 |
| 25 to 34 years | 1,812 | 44 | 1,168 | 34 | 325 | 282 | 353 | 149 | 113 | 4,349 | 63,080 | 931,814 |
| 35 to 44 years | 1,342 | 46 | 806 | 40 | 247 | 210 | 259 | 105 | 90 | 2,898 | 45,852 | 672,190 |
| 45 to 54 years | 1,156 | 49 | 753 | 24 | 225 | 179 | 207 | 85 | 94 | 2,647 | 43,130 | 534,003 |
| 55 to 64 years | 785 | 41 | 479 | 27 | 116 | 103 | 141 | 61 | 58 | 1,679 | 31,841 | 336,353 |
| 65 years and over | 762 | 24 | 463 | 18 | 151 | 133 | 137 | 56 | 74 | 1,690 | 32,010 | 331,520 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Table QT-H1;
*Table QT-H2;
**DP-1.

| Table 1-20: Contract Rent (in Dollars) in the Region on Interest (2009–2013) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Housing Value** | **Lea County, New Mexico** | **Eunice, New Mexico** | **Hobbs, New Mexico** | **Jal, New Mexico** | **Andrews County, Texas** | **Andrews, Texas** | **Gaines County, Texas** | **Seminole, Texas** | **Winkler County, Texas** | **Ector County, Texas** | **New Mexico** | **Texas** |
| Median contract rent* | **584** | **516** | **633** | **422** | **604** | **617** | **478** | **702** | **391** | **612** | **635** | **688** |
| Total Renter-Occupied Housing | 6,336 | 341 | 3,654 | 190 | 1,140 | 1,050 | 1,257 | 481 | 530 | 17,140 | 238,594 | 3,262,919 |
| With cash rent: | 5,606 | 310 | 3,495 | 163 | 983 | 923 | 944 | 377 | 390 | 15,231 | 219,395 | 3,076,712 |
| Less than $100 | 44 | 0 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 25 | 199 | 3,814 | 37,725 |
| $100 to $149 | 155 | 0 | 83 | 4 | 12 | 12 | 31 | 8 | 14 | 219 | 3,612 | 38,706 |
| $150 to $199 | 53 | 6 | 29 | 0 | 15 | 15 | 91 | 48 | 13 | 170 | 4,579 | 38,226 |
| $200 to $249 | 189 | 14 | 92 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 86 | 5 | 4 | 266 | 5,967 | 50,634 |
| $250 to $299 | 161 | 14 | 52 | 0 | 41 | 41 | 72 | 0 | 21 | 277 | 5,450 | 48,686 |
| $300 to $349 | 271 | 12 | 98 | 19 | 203 | 188 | 0 | 0 | 51 | 595 | 7,417 | 73,240 |
| $350 to $399 | 144 | 44 | 37 | 42 | 59 | 59 | 101 | 60 | 82 | 670 | 8,945 | 85,203 |
| $400 to $449 | 555 | 31 | 329 | 22 | 54 | 45 | 64 | 14 | 43 | 1,143 | 13,132 | 142,679 |
| $450 to $499 | 351 | 11 | 203 | 18 | 21 | 21 | 36 | 4 | 44 | 770 | 13,284 | 163,943 |
| $500 to $549 | 626 | 72 | 353 | 19 | 16 | 16 | 70 | 32 | 36 | 1,765 | 17,674 | 236,220 |
| $550 to $599 | 372 | 36 | 274 | 6 | 53 | 26 | 130 | 0 | 0 | 1,273 | 14,643 | 218,151 |
| $600 to $649 | 453 | 8 | 245 | 10 | 91 | 82 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 1,092 | 16,065 | 231,574 |
| $650 to $699 | 287 | 36 | 110 | 5 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 3 | 792 | 14,410 | 229,342 |
| $700 to $749 | 322 | 12 | 158 | 7 | 94 | 94 | 42 | 42 | 6 | 1,380 | 13,892 | 217,333 |
| $750 to $799 | 213 | 0 | 175 | 4 | 47 | 47 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 739 | 10,001 | 177,332 |
| $800 to $899 | 567 | 14 | 510 | 0 | 134 | 134 | 64 | 64 | 0 | 1,447 | 19,986 | 306,766 |
| $900 to $999 | 267 | 0 | 177 | 0 | 33 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,004 | 13,020 | 208,120 |
| $1,000 to $1,249 | 323 | 0 | 283 | 0 | 86 | 86 | 73 | 53 | 34 | 916 | 20,583 | 300,189 |
| $1,250 to $1,499 | 128 | 0 | 128 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 139 | 6,439 | 134,912 |
| $1,500 to $1,999 | 39 | 0 | 39 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 136 | 4,393 | 91,251 |
| $2,000 or more | 86 | 0 | 86 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 239 | 2,089 | 46,480 |
| No cash rent | 730 | 31 | 159 | 27 | 157 | 127 | 313 | 104 | 140 | 1,909 | 19,199 | 186,207 |

Source: ACS 2009–2013 Table B25056 and *B25058.

| Table 1-21: Gross Rent (in Dollars) in the Region of Interest (2009–2013) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Lea County, New Mexico** | **Eunice, New Mexico** | **Hobbs, New Mexico** | **Jal, New Mexico** | **Andrews County, Texas** | **Andrews, Texas** | **Gaines County, Texas** | **Seminole, Texas** | **Winkler County, Texas** | **Ector County, Texas** | **New Mexico** | **Texas** |
| Median gross rent* | **$734** | **$651** | **$812** | **$671** | **$769** | **$793** | **$657** | **$863** | **$575** | **$789** | **$758** | **$851** |
| Total Renter Occupied Housing | 6,336 | 341 | 3,654 | 190 | 1,140 | 1,050 | 1,257 | 481 | 530 | 17,140 | 238,594 | 3,262,919 |
| With cash rent | 5,606 | 310 | 3,495 | 163 | 983 | 923 | 944 | 377 | 390 | 15,231 | 219,395 | 3,076,712 |
| Less than $100 | 34 | 0 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 977 | 10,250 |
| $100 to $149 | 44 | 0 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 36 | 1,119 | 10,539 |
| $150 to $199 | 38 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 0 | 16 | 141 | 2,675 | 22,622 |
| $200 to $249 | 126 | 14 | 85 | 0 | 25 | 25 | 41 | 4 | 20 | 188 | 4,740 | 35,471 |
| $250 to $299 | 98 | 6 | 15 | 0 | 12 | 12 | 85 | 44 | 0 | 256 | 3,614 | 34,296 |
| $300 to $349 | 151 | 0 | 88 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 13 | 11 | 173 | 3,951 | 35,011 |
| $350 to $399 | 68 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 34 | 34 | 50 | 0 | 25 | 255 | 5,727 | 40,493 |
| $400 to $449 | 165 | 28 | 38 | 14 | 123 | 123 | 76 | 24 | 3 | 434 | 8,338 | 57,750 |
| $450 to $499 | 298 | 12 | 198 | 5 | 56 | 56 | 68 | 36 | 30 | 425 | 9,376 | 77,404 |
| $500 to $549 | 235 | 23 | 115 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 47 | 642 | 11,282 | 111,088 |
| $550 to $599 | 464 | 50 | 207 | 7 | 84 | 78 | 26 | 14 | 77 | 1,028 | 13,601 | 147,051 |
| $600 to $649 | 369 | 21 | 234 | 8 | 23 | 20 | 17 | 0 | 46 | 1,033 | 13,890 | 175,526 |
| $650 to $699 | 491 | 67 | 218 | 28 | 26 | 26 | 77 | 36 | 12 | 1,311 | 14,242 | 190,816 |
| $700 to $749 | 323 | 0 | 194 | 17 | 94 | 71 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 1,015 | 14,086 | 200,748 |
| $750 to $799 | 348 | 37 | 190 | 25 | 38 | 19 | 101 | 0 | 11 | 861 | 13,589 | 197,467 |
| $800 to $899 | 720 | 0 | 480 | 12 | 69 | 69 | 77 | 28 | 20 | 1,868 | 23,876 | 376,340 |
| $900 to $999 | 552 | 30 | 446 | 4 | 92 | 83 | 65 | 39 | 0 | 1,294 | 18,074 | 316,592 |
| $1,000 to $1,249 | 639 | 22 | 467 | 7 | 185 | 185 | 55 | 55 | 37 | 2,764 | 29,851 | 515,231 |
| $1,250 to $1,499 | 245 | 0 | 226 | 0 | 30 | 30 | 51 | 31 | 0 | 837 | 14,258 | 253,043 |
| $1,500 to $1,999 | 108 | 0 | 98 | 0 | 92 | 92 | 53 | 53 | 20 | 399 | 8,836 | 194,629 |
| $2,000 or more | 90 | 0 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 261 | 3,293 | 74,345 |
| No cash rent | 730 | 31 | 159 | 27 | 157 | 127 | 313 | 104 | 140 | 1,909 | 19,199 | 186,207 |

Source: ACS 2009–2013 Table B25063 and *B25064.

### 1.1.6 Income and Poverty Status

According to 2009–2013 American Community Survey data, the highest median household income for the ROI was in Andrews County ($57,825) at the county level while Jal, New Mexico, located in Lea County had the lowest median household income of $48,790 at the city level (**Table 1-22**). Within the three census tracts in Andrews, Texas, the median household incomes ranged from $61,719 (CT 9504) to $88,250 (CT 9501). Ector County has one census tract and the median household income is $36,927. Seminole, Texas, has two census tracts and median household incomes were $46,512 (CT 9503) and $64,024 (CT 9502), respectively. Winkler County, Texas, has one census tract and the median household income is $49,583. Jal, Lea County, New Mexico, has 15 census tracts within the ROI. Median household incomes ranged $29,882 in CT 3 and $108,922 in CT 7.03 (see **Figure 1.1-4, Median Household Income in the Region of Interest**).

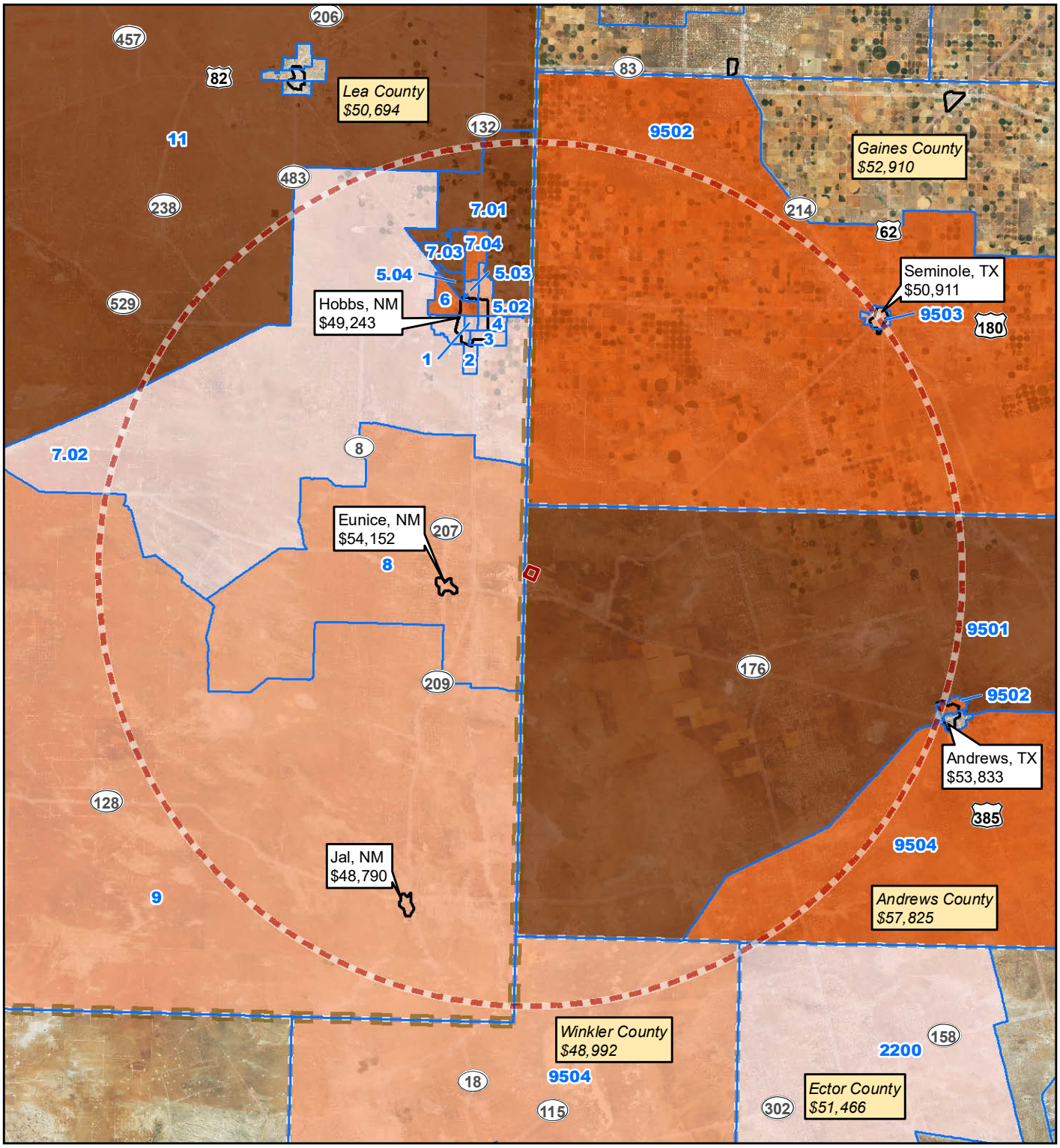
The median household income for geographies within the ROI may be compared to poverty status as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. Appendix C of NUREG-1748 states that the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Reports, Series P-60 on Income and Poverty, should be utilized for this purpose. The U.S. Census uses an income threshold that varies by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If the family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then the family and every individual is considered in poverty. The preliminary estimate of the poverty threshold for 2014 for a family of four is $24,221 (USCB 2015). The final 2014 thresholds was released in September 2015 and that threshold was $24,036 (USCB 2015). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) also publishes a poverty guideline. For comparison purposes, the 2015 DHHS poverty guideline is $24,250 for a family of four.

The median household incomes for all the counties and cities within the ROI are above the poverty thresholds established by the USCB and the DHHS.

| Table 1-22: Median Household Income (2009–2013) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Census 2010 Geography | Total Households | Median Household Income | 2015 DHHS Poverty Guideline |
| Andrews County, TX | 5,217 | $57,825 | $24,250 |
| Andrews, TX | 4,082 | $53,833 | |
| Census tract 9501 | 639 | $88,250 | |
| Census tract 9502 | 2,419 | $63,125 | |
| Census tract 9504 | 811 | $61,719 | |
| Ector County, TX | 49,962 | $51,466 | |
| Census tract 22 | 1,012 | $36,927 | |
| Gaines County, TX | 5,437 | $52,910 | |
| Seminole, TX | 2,175 | $50,911 | |
| Census tract 9502 | 2,376 | $64,024 | |
| Census tract 9503 | 1,862 | $46,512 | |
| Winkler County, TX | 2,709 | $48,992 | |
| Census tract 9504 | 570 | $49,583 | |
| Lea County, NM | 21,126 | $50,694 | |
| Eunice, NM | 1,151 | $54,152 | |
| Hobbs, NM | 10,995 | $49,243 | |
| Jal, NM | 730 | $48,790 | |
| Census tract 1 | 829 | $32,052 | |
| Census tract 2 | 992 | $39,667 | |
| Census tract 3 | 1,141 | $29,882 | |
| Census tract 4 | 1,109 | $39,917 | |
| Census tract 5.02 | 2,097 | $52,236 | |
| Census tract 5.03 | 1,367 | $55,150 | |
| Census tract 5.04 | 1,508 | $81,111 | |
| Census tract 6 | 2,085 | $60,432 | |
| Census tract 7.01 | 512 | $64,717 | |
| Census tract 7.02 | 622 | $45,682 | |
| Census tract 7.03 | 774 | $108,922 | |
| Census tract 7.04 | 997 | $56,875 | |
| Census tract 8 | 1,278 | $56,000 | |
| Census tract 9 | 779 | $47,702 | |
| Census tract 11 | 1,571 | $65,524 | |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2013 American Community Survey, Tables B11001 and B19013.

ACS data are estimates; they are not counts. Income data is provided in 2013 inflation adjusted dollars.




Project Location
30-mile Region of Interest
State Boundary
County Boundary
2010 Census Tract

**Median Household Income**

$29,882 - $45,682
$45,683 - $56,000
$56,001 - $64,024
$64,025 - $108,922

Note: no census tracts within the ROI have median household incomes below any of the 2014 Poverty Thresholds developed by the Census or the 2015 poverty guidelines developed by the Department of Health and Human Services

Data Source: US Census Bureau (2010)
Aerial Source: NAIP (2014)

0 10 Miles
0 15 Kilometers

**Figure 1.1-4**

**Median Household Income in the Region of Interest**

**Proposed Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility**

COX | McLAIN Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 10 miles |
| | Scale: 1:633,600 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 4/4/2016 |

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### 1.1.7 Population in Poverty within ROI

As previously mentioned (see **Section 1.1.6**), no total population for any city or county within the ROI has median incomes that are within the poverty thresholds established by the U.S. Census Bureau or the Department of Health and Human Services. This section did identify there were percentages of families and individuals living below poverty levels, with highest percentages in Gaines County, Texas. A review of population data was performed to assess comparisons of this data and population data.

The population below poverty level within the ROI is summarized in **Table 1-23**. In Andrews, Texas, there are three census tracts totaling with 11,308 individuals within these tracts for whom poverty status was determined, 5.1 to 9.6 percent of the population in the past 12 months were below poverty level. In Ector County, Texas, 909 individuals in census tract 22 were below poverty level, approximately 27.5 percent of the population whom poverty status was determined. Seminole, Texas, contained two census tracts within the ROI and percentages of individuals below poverty level ranged between 12.6 and 18.0 percent. Of the 1,549 individuals in Winkler County, Texas, in CT 9504, 13.2 percent were determined to be below poverty level in the past 12 months. Within Jal in Lea County, New Mexico, there were 15 census tracts with 52,502 individuals whom poverty status was determined. Of these individuals, 7,084 individuals were below the poverty level and depending on the census tract, percentages ranged from 0.4 (CT 7.03) to 27.1 (CT 4) percent.

### 1.1.8 Employment and Unemployment Characteristics

**Table 1-24** shows the employment status of persons over the age of 16 within the ROI. Within these populations, the employment rate ranges from the lowest of 50.6 percent in Jal, New Mexico, to the highest, 63.0 percent in Ector County, Texas. These employment rates are lower than the state employment percentage in New Mexico (54.4 percent) and higher than in Texas (59.4 percent). The unemployment percentages range from the highest (8.4 percent) in Lea County, New Mexico, to the lowest unemployment percentage of 3.5 in Winkler County, Texas. These rates are slightly better (lower) with the State of New Mexico's unemployment rate of 9.7 percent and considerably better (lower) than State of Texas' rate of 8.1 percent.

Within the ROI, the population with the highest percentage employed is Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (100%) in Gaines and Ector counties, and Seminole, Texas, however that is for a total of 35 persons in Ector County, and 48 persons in Gaines County and Seminole, Texas, which is a fraction of the total population of 104,044 (Ector County), 12,468 (Gaines County) and 5,080 (Seminole). In comparison, the population with the highest percentage of unemployed is Black and African American (100%) in Jal, New Mexico. As with the number of employed, the number of persons within this population (15) is relatively small as compared to the total population of 1,612.

| Table 1-23: Population in Poverty (2009–2013) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Census 2010 Geography** | **Total Population For Whom Poverty Status is Determined** | **Population with Income in the past 12 months below poverty level** | **Percent of Population with Income in the past 12 months below poverty level** |
| Andrews County, TX | 15,379 | 1,926 | 12.5% |
| Andrews, TX | 11,537 | 1,613 | 14% |
| Census tract 9501 | 1,949 | 99 | 5.1% |
| Census tract 9502 | 6,584 | 620 | 9.4% |
| Census tract 9504 | 2,775 | 266 | 9.6% |
| Ector County, TX | 138,967 | 22,080 | 15.9% |
| Census tract 22 | 3,309 | 909 | 27.5% |
| Gaines County, TX | 17,907 | 3,000 | 16.8% |
| Seminole, TX | 6,558 | 997 | 15.2% |
| Census tract 9502 | 8,660 | 1,561 | 18% |
| Census tract 9503 | 5,597 | 704 | 12.6% |
| Winkler County, TX | 7,121 | 909 | 12.8% |
| Census tract 9504 | 1,549 | 204 | 13.2% |
| Lea County, NM | 63,552 | 9,507 | 15% |
| Eunice, NM | 2,973 | 303 | 10.2% |
| Hobbs, NM | 33,228 | 5,542 | 16.7% |
| Jal, NM | 2,056 | 163 | 7.9% |
| Census tract 1 | 2,506 | 543 | 21.7% |
| Census tract 2 | 3,321 | 756 | 22.8% |
| Census tract 3 | 3,823 | 949 | 24.8% |
| Census tract 4 | 3,641 | 987 | 27.1% |
| Census tract 5.02 | 6,203 | 977 | 15.8% |
| Census tract 5.03 | 3,823 | 539 | 14.1% |
| Census tract 5.04 | 3,587 | 318 | 8.9% |
| Census tract 6 | 6,589 | 521 | 7.9% |
| Census tract 7.01 | 1,726 | 247 | 14.3% |
| Census tract 7.02 | 1,984 | 199 | 10% |
| Census tract 7.03 | 2,227 | 9 | 0.4% |
| Census tract 7.04 | 2,901 | 246 | 8.5% |
| Census tract 8 | 3,210 | 329 | 10.2% |
| Census tract 9 | 2,158 | 194 | 9% |
| Census tract 11 | 4,803 | 270 | 5.6% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2013 American Community Survey, Table B17001.
ACS data are estimates; they are not counts.

| Table 1-24: Employment Status by Race/Ethnicity in the Region of Interest (2009–2013) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Subject** | **Lea County, New Mexico** | **Eunice, New Mexico** | **Hobbs, New Mexico** | **Jal, New Mexico** | **Andrews County, Texas** | **Andrews, Texas** | **Gaines County, Texas** | **Seminole, Texas** | **Winkler County, Texas** | **Ector County, Texas** | **New Mexico** | **Texas** |
| **Population 16 years and over** | **48,357** | **2,332** | **25,092** | **1,612** | **11,457** | **8,535** | **12,468** | **5,080** | **5,352** | **104,044** | **1,612,730** | **19,468,136** |
| *Percent of Persons Employed/Unemployment* | *56.4%/8.4%* | *62.0%/5.8%* | *55.9%/7.9%* | *50.6%/4.6%* | *61.5%/5.9%* | *59.4%/4.9%* | *59.3%/5.8%* | *60.5%/6.8%* | *59.1%/3.5%* | *63.0%/6.2%* | *54.4%/9.7%* | *59.4%/8.1%* |
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino | 22,628 | 1,225 | 10,850 | 978 | 5,765 | 4,251 | 7,560 | 2,933 | 2,465 | 46,040 | 711,032 | 9,444,102 |
| *Percent of Persons Employed/Unemployment* | *56.7%/6.8%* | *61.3%/6.6%* | *54.8%/7.0%* | *49.1%/5.0%* | *60.7%/4.4%* | *60.0%/3.8%* | *59.2%/5.2%* | *63.1%/5.2%* | *57.0%/4.9%* | *62.4%/4.7%* | *54.9%/7.0%* | *59.6%/6.4%* |
| Black or African American | 1,598 | 0 | 1,231 | 15 | 214 | 200 | 137 | 42 | 117 | 4,249 | 31,856 | 2,282,951 |
| *Percent of Persons Employed/Unemployment* | *55.3%/10.2%* | *-/-* | *55.5%/8.0%* | *0.0%/100.0%* | *54.7%/24.5%* | *51.5%/27.0%* | *20.4%/0.0%* | *9.5%/0.0%* | *53.8%/0.0%* | *51.1%/9.5%* | *52.9%/12.5%* | *55.5%/13.3%* |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 481 | 0 | 363 | 11 | 290 | 268 | 181 | 125 | 43 | 671 | 139,355 | 98,684 |
| *Percent of Persons Employed/Unemployment* | *45.9%/12.6%* | *-/-* | *41.3%/17.1%* | *63.6%/0.0%* | *89.7%/0.0%* | *88.8%/0.0%* | *59.1%/1.8%* | *59.2%/0.0%* | *65.1%/26.3%* | *68.7%/0.0%* | *45.1%/16.2%* | *57.4%/10.8%* |
| Asian | 176 | 0 | 151 | 0 | 138 | 138 | 32 | 5 | 28 | 899 | 22,841 | 797,419 |
| *Percent of Persons Employed/Unemployment* | *67.6%/0.0%* | *-/-* | *78.8%/0.0%* | *-/-* | *69.6%/0.0%* | *69.6%/0.0%* | *0.0%/-* | *0.0%/-* | *67.9%/0.0%* | *66.1%/5.3%* | *61.8%/7.4%* | *62.9%/6.3%* |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 48 | 0 | 35 | 1,162 | 15,834 |
| *Percent of Persons Employed/Unemployment* | *-/-* | *-/-* | *-/-* | *-/-* | *-/-* | *-/-* | *100.0%/0.0%* | *100.0%/0.0%* | *-/-* | *100.0%/0.0%* | *59.0%/2.4%* | *56.2%/12.6%* |
| Some other race | 2,596 | 169 | 1,454 | 6 | 498 | 484 | 463 | 135 | 226 | 5,479 | 175,144 | 1,269,528 |
| *Percent of Persons Employed/Unemployment* | *65.8%/9.4%* | *60.4%/20.3%* | *62.7%/11.8%* | *50.0%/0.0%* | *41.2%/0.0%* | *41.7%/0.0%* | *67.0%/0.0%* | *71.1%/0.0%* | *56.2%/7.3%* | *59.5%/11.3%* | *56.8%/10.8%* | *62.5%/9.4%* |
| Two or more races | 1,110 | 42 | 568 | 53 | 159 | 121 | 246 | 157 | 148 | 2,287 | 37,715 | 337,241 |
| *Percent of Persons Employed/Unemployment* | *54.9%/6.9%* | *85.7%/0.0%* | *39.3%/16.8%* | *47.2%/0.0%* | *66.0%/8.7%* | *60.3%/8.8%* | *50.8%/12.6%* | *34.4%/0.0%* | *73.0%/2.7%* | *62.5%/7.2%* | *54.4%/12.1%* | *58.0%/11.0%* |
| Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race) | 22,739 | 1,059 | 12,211 | 567 | 5,355 | 3,990 | 4,541 | 2,010 | 2,707 | 51,513 | 697,273 | 6,697,763 |
| *Percent of Persons Employed/Unemployment* | *55.9%/10.1%* | *61.8%/5.2%* | *57.0%/8.7%* | *55.0%/1.9%* | *61.8%/7.5%* | *58.2%/6.3%* | *60.3%/6.6%* | *57.0%/9.6%* | *61.4%/2.5%* | *64.3%/7.4%* | *55.4%/11.3%* | *60.1%/8.9%* |

Source: ACS 2009–2013 Table S2301.

### 1.1.9 Employment by Industry Sector

Employment within all counties of the ROI is primarily within the industries of 1) educational services, and health care and social assistance (18.1%); 2) agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining (16.4%); and 3) retail trade (10.1%) (see **Table 1-25**). The lowest percentage of persons employed is within the information industry (1.2%). The industry percentages are consistent between the counties and the states for wholesale trade, information, and other services, except public administration. Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining had the greatest variability (16.4% for the counties when compared to 4.4% for New Mexico and 3.1% for Texas) (ACS 2013).

Employment in Lea County, New Mexico, is primarily through the industries of 1) agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining (21.2 percent); 2) educational services, and heath care and social assistance (16.9%); and 3) retail trade (9.5 percent) (ACS 2013). The highest percentage of industry employment within Andrews, Gaines, and Winker Counties, Texas, was agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining (ranging from 21.4 to 27.6 percent) and Ector County industry employment being highest in educational services, health care and social assistance (18.2 percent). These percentages are higher than the state of Texas (3.1 percent). The percentage for all counties combined within the ROI for the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining industry is 16.4 percent. The information industry was 1.1 percent in Lea County, New Mexico, and ranged between 0.4 to 1.4 percent within Andrews, Ector, Gaines, and Winkler Counties, Texas. These percentages are comparable to their respective states and combined counties within the ROI (ACS 2013).

American Community Survey data from 2009 through 2013 contain unemployment information for the census tract level (see **Table 1-26**). In the ROI, there is some variation in the unemployment rate in the civilian labor force. The unemployment rate in Andrews, Texas, ranges from 1.9 percent (CT 9501) to 10.2 percent (CT 9504) with unemployment in Andrews, Texas, at 4.9 percent and 5.9 percent for Andrews County, Texas. Five armed forces personnel were within Andrews, Texas, and 3,195 individuals were not in the labor force. Andrews County, Texas, had 3,965 individuals not in the labor force.

Ector County, Texas, only had one census tract (CT 22) in the ROI with 5.3 percent unemployed in the civilian labor force, no armed forces personnel, and 1,013 individuals not in the labor force. Ector County, Texas, as a whole had 6.2 percent unemployment, 35 armed forces personnel, and 34,102 individuals not in the labor force.

Gaines County, Texas, has two census tracts within Seminole, Texas (CT 9502 and 9503). The rates in these areas ranged from 3.8 percent (CT 9502) to 9.1 percent (CT 9503) with Gaines County, Texas, at 5.8 percent. There were no armed forces personnel in either Gaines County, Texas, or Seminole, Texas, with individuals not in the labor force ranging from 1,666 individuals to 4,620 individuals.

| Table 1-25: Employment by Industry Sector in the Region of Interest (2009–2013) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| INDUSTRY | Lea County, New Mexico | Eunice, New Mexico | Hobbs, New Mexico | Jal, New Mexico | Andrews County, Texas | Andrews, Texas | Gaines County, Texas | Seminole, Texas | Winkler County, Texas | Ector County, Texas | New Mexico | Texas | Counties Combined (New Mexico, Texas) |
| **Civilian employed population 16 years and over** | **27,256** | **1,447** | **14,025** | **816** | **7,048** | **5,072** | **7,390** | **3,072** | **3,165** | **65,574** | **876,823** | **11,569,041** | **110,433** |
| **Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining** | **5,765** | **368** | **2,536** | **140** | **1,942** | **1,410** | **1,601** | **412** | **677** | **8,072** | **38,237** | **359,977** | **18,057** |
| *Percent of Total* | *21.2%* | *25.4%* | *18.1%* | *17.2%* | *27.6%* | *27.8%* | *21.7%* | *13.4%* | *21.4%* | *12.3%* | *4.4%* | *3.1%* | *16.4%* |
| **Construction** | **2,390** | **123** | **1,485** | **79** | **488** | **341** | **1,133** | **341** | **417** | **5,353** | **62,241** | **914,460** | **9,781** |
| *Percent of Total* | *8.8%* | *8.5%* | *10.6%* | *9.7%* | *6.9%* | *6.7%* | *15.3%* | *11.1%* | *13.2%* | *8.2%* | *7.1%* | *7.9%* | *8.9%* |
| **Manufacturing** | **1,378** | **79** | **622** | **69** | **455** | **374** | **335** | **131** | **89** | **5,978** | **44,362** | **1,083,079** | **8,235** |
| *Percent of Total* | *5.1%* | *5.5%* | *4.4%* | *8.5%* | *6.5%* | *7.4%* | *4.5%* | *4.3%* | *2.8%* | *9.1%* | *5.1%* | *9.4%* | *7.5%* |
| **Wholesale trade** | **1,053** | **67** | **407** | **15** | **208** | **116** | **155** | **99** | **102** | **2,913** | **18,578** | **347,982** | **4,431** |
| *Percent of Total* | *3.9%* | *4.6%* | *2.9%* | *1.8%* | *3%* | *2.3%* | *2.1%* | *3.2%* | *3.2%* | *4.4%* | *2.1%* | *3%* | *4.0%* |
| **Retail trade** | **2,593** | **71** | **1,559** | **84** | **375** | **269** | **734** | **272** | **253** | **7,145** | **98,496** | **1,345,939** | **11,100** |
| *Percent of Total* | *9.5%* | *4.9%* | *11.1%* | *10.3%* | *5.3%* | *5.3%* | *9.9%* | *8.9%* | *8%* | *10.9%* | *11.2%* | *11.6%* | *10.1%* |
| **Transportation and warehousing, and utilities** | **2,124** | **119** | **911** | **151** | **506** | **406** | **618** | **177** | **282** | **3,408** | **39,445** | **629,548** | **6,938** |
| *Percent of Total* | *7.8%* | *8.2%* | *6.5%* | *18.5%* | *7.2%* | *8%* | *8.4%* | *5.8%* | *8.9%* | *5.2%* | *4.5%* | *5.4%* | *6.3%* |
| **Information** | **293** | **0** | **185** | **8** | **51** | **29** | **32** | **9** | **13** | **908** | **14,651** | **213,097** | **1,297** |
| *Percent of Total* | *1.1%* | *0%* | *1.3%* | *1%* | *0.7%* | *0.6%* | *0.4%* | *0.3%* | *0.4%* | *1.4%* | *1.7%* | *1.8%* | *1.2%* |
| **Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing** | **963** | **34** | **535** | **16** | **123** | **63** | **121** | **21** | **112** | **2,903** | **40,799** | **769,050** | **4,222** |
| *Percent of Total* | *3.5%* | *2.3%* | *3.8%* | *2%* | *1.7%* | *1.2%* | *1.6%* | *0.7%* | *3.5%* | *4.4%* | *4.7%* | *6.6%* | *3.8%* |
| **Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services** | **1,554** | **88** | **942** | **38** | **426** | **326** | **301** | **211** | **116** | **4,284** | **95,063** | **1,251,791** | **6,681** |
| *Percent of Total* | *5.7%* | *6.1%* | *6.7%* | *4.7%* | *6%* | *6.4%* | *4.1%* | *6.9%* | *3.7%* | *6.5%* | *10.8%* | *10.8%* | *6.1%* |
| **Educational services, and health care and social assistance** | **4,616** | **256** | **2,329** | **137** | **1,561** | **1,119** | **1,233** | **810** | **609** | **11,962** | **218,046** | **2,514,011** | **19,981** |
| *Percent of Total* | *16.9%* | *17.7%* | *16.6%* | *16.8%* | *22.1%* | *22.1%* | *16.7%* | *26.4%* | *19.2%* | *18.2%* | *24.9%* | *21.7%* | *18.1%* |
| **Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services** | **1,830** | **118** | **1,108** | **4** | **491** | **306** | **402** | **276** | **244** | **6,633** | **94,257** | **1,001,258** | **9,600** |
| *Percent of Total* | *6.7%* | *8.2%* | *7.9%* | *0.5%* | *7%* | *6%* | *5.4%* | *9%* | *7.7%* | *10.1%* | *10.7%* | *8.7%* | *8.7%* |
| **Other services, except public administration** | **1,379** | **84** | **796** | **40** | **325** | **241** | **581** | **219** | **103** | **4,338** | **42,250** | **621,998** | **6,726** |
| *Percent of Total* | *5.1%* | *5.8%* | *5.7%* | *4.9%* | *4.6%* | *4.8%* | *7.9%* | *7.1%* | *3.3%* | *6.6%* | *4.8%* | *5.4%* | *6.1%* |
| **Public administration** | **1,318** | **40** | **610** | **35** | **97** | **72** | **144** | **94** | **148** | **1,677** | **70,398** | **516,851** | **3,384** |
| *Percent of Total* | *4.8%* | *2.8%* | *4.3%* | *4.3%* | *1.4%* | *1.4%* | *1.9%* | *3.1%* | *4.7%* | *2.6%* | *8%* | *4.5%* | *3.06%* |

Source: ACS 2009–2013 Table DP03.

Winkler County, Texas, has one census tract (CT 9504) within the ROI and had eight percent of the labor force as unemployed with no armed services personnel and 478 individuals not in the labor force. Within the county as a whole, there was 3.5 percent unemployed with 2,072 individuals not in the labor force.

Lea County, New Mexico, has 15 census tracts within the ROI, all within Jal, New Mexico. The percentage of unemployed in the civilian labor force ranged from the highest (18.5 percent in CT 7.02) to the lowest (4.2 percent in CT 7.03). Twenty armed services personnel were identified in CT 5.02 and five in CT 7.02, which constituted a majority of the armed services personnel in Lea County, New Mexico (34 individuals). The number of individuals not in the labor force ranged from 389 (CT 7.01) to 1,899 (CT 7.02). Eunice, New Mexico, had 89 individuals (5.8 percent) unemployed with no armed forces personnel, and 796 individuals not in the labor force. Hobbs, New Mexico, had 1,195 individuals (7.9 percent) unemployed, 20 armed services personnel, and 9,852 individuals not in the labor force. **Table 1-26** provides data regarding employment status within the ROI.

The top three industries in terms of employment in the Fourth Quarter of 2014 for Andrews County were 1) Natural Resources and Mining (2,055 employees); 2) Trade, Transport, and Utilities (1,527) and 3) Education and Health Services (1,143). Ector County top industries included 1) Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (18,235), 2) Education and Health Services (13,091) and 3) Natural Resources and Mining (12,429). Gaines County top industries includes 1) Natural Resources and Mining (2,239), 2) Trade, Transportation and Utilities (1,124) and 3) Construction (435). Winkler County top industries includes 1) Natural Resources and Mining (863), 2) Trade, Transportation and Utilities (555), and 3) Education and Health Services (496) (see **Table 1-27**) (TWC 2015).

There is general consistency when comparing employment industries between the recent Texas Workforce Commission 2014 information and the American Community Survey from 2009–2013. The primary industries within the ROI are agricultural and mining based. Educational and health-related industries are very prevalent, along with trade-related industries.

| Table 1-26: Employment Status in the Region of Interest (2009–2013) | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Civilian labor force (CLF) | | | | | |
| Census 2010 Geography | Population 16 years and over | In Labor force | Civilian labor force | Employed in CLF | Unemployed In CLF | % Unemployed in CLF | Armed Forces | Not in labor force |
| **Andrews County, TX** | 11457 | 7492 | 7487 | 7048 | 439 | 5.9% | 5 | 3965 |
| Andrews, TX | 8535 | 5340 | 5335 | 5072 | 263 | 4.9% | 5 | 3195 |
| Census tract 9501 | 1476 | 995 | 995 | 976 | 19 | 1.9% | 0 | 481 |
| Census tract 9502 | 5065 | 3052 | 3047 | 2962 | 85 | 2.8% | 5 | 2013 |
| Census tract 9504 | 2058 | 1596 | 1596 | 1433 | 163 | 10.2% | 0 | 462 |
| **Ector County, TX** | 104044 | 69942 | 69907 | 65574 | 4333 | 6.2% | 35 | 34102 |
| Census tract 22 | 2466 | 1453 | 1453 | 1376 | 77 | 5.3% | 0 | 1013 |
| **Gaines County, TX** | 12468 | 7848 | 7848 | 7390 | 458 | 5.8% | 0 | 4620 |
| Seminole, TX | 5080 | 3295 | 3295 | 3072 | 223 | 6.8% | 0 | 1785 |
| Census tract 9502 | 5841 | 3748 | 3748 | 3604 | 144 | 3.8% | 0 | 2093 |
| Census tract 9503 | 4111 | 2445 | 2445 | 2222 | 223 | 9.1% | 0 | 1666 |
| **Winkler County, TX** | 5352 | 3280 | 3280 | 3165 | 115 | 3.5% | 0 | 2072 |
| Census tract 9504 | 1277 | 799 | 799 | 735 | 64 | 8% | 0 | 478 |
| **Lea County, NM** | 48357 | 29783 | 29749 | 27256 | 2493 | 8.4% | 34 | 18574 |
| Eunice, NM | 2332 | 1536 | 1536 | 1447 | 89 | 5.8% | 0 | 796 |
| Hobbs, NM | 25092 | 15240 | 15220 | 14025 | 1195 | 7.9% | 20 | 9852 |
| Jal, NM | 1612 | 855 | 855 | 816 | 39 | 4.6% | 0 | 757 |
| Census tract 1 | 1915 | 1227 | 1227 | 1126 | 101 | 8.2% | 0 | 688 |
| Census tract 2 | 2507 | 1479 | 1479 | 1213 | 266 | 18% | 0 | 1028 |
| Census tract 3 | 2502 | 1416 | 1416 | 1266 | 150 | 10.6% | 0 | 1086 |
| Census tract 4 | 2358 | 1307 | 1307 | 1241 | 66 | 5% | 0 | 1051 |
| Census tract 5.02 | 4320 | 2844 | 2824 | 2658 | 166 | 5.9% | 20 | 1476 |
| Census tract 5.03 | 2824 | 1935 | 1935 | 1780 | 155 | 8% | 0 | 889 |
| Census tract 5.04 | 2797 | 2158 | 2158 | 1996 | 162 | 7.5% | 0 | 639 |
| Census tract 6 | 4922 | 3123 | 3123 | 2927 | 196 | 6.3% | 0 | 1799 |
| Census tract 7.01 | 1289 | 900 | 900 | 816 | 84 | 9.3% | 0 | 389 |
| Census tract 7.02 | 2818 | 919 | 914 | 745 | 169 | 18.5% | 5 | 1899 |
| Census tract 7.03 | 1918 | 1321 | 1321 | 1265 | 56 | 4.2% | 0 | 597 |
| Census tract 7.04 | 2336 | 1575 | 1575 | 1346 | 229 | 14.5% | 0 | 761 |
| Census tract 8 | 2536 | 1652 | 1652 | 1563 | 89 | 5.4% | 0 | 884 |
| Census tract 9 | 1714 | 916 | 916 | 877 | 39 | 4.3% | 0 | 798 |
| Census tract 11 | 3512 | 2322 | 2322 | 2175 | 147 | 6.3% | 0 | 1190 |

Source: ACS 2009–2013 Table DP03.

| Table 1-27: Employment by Industry for Texas Counties 2014 (Texas Workforce Commission) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **INDUSTRY** | **Andrews County, TX** | **Ector County, TX** | **Gaines County, TX** | **Winkler County, TX** |
| **Civilian employed population 16 years and over** | **7,879** | **79,051** | **4,964** | **2,818** |
| **Natural Resources and Mining** | **2,055** | **12,429** | **2,239** | **863** |
| *Percent of Total* | *26.08%* | *15.72%* | *45.10%* | *30.62%* |
| **Construction** | **872** | **7,591** | **435** | **399** |
| *Percent of Total* | *11.07%* | *9.60%* | *8.76%* | *14.16%* |
| **Manufacturing** | **348** | **5,958** | **149** | **0** |
| *Percent of Total* | *4.42%* | *7.54%* | *3.00%* | *0.00%* |
| **Trade, Transportation and Utilities** | **1,527** | **18,235** | **1,124** | **555** |
| *Percent of Total* | *19.38%* | *23.07%* | *22.64%* | *19.69%* |
| **Information** | **100** | **496** | **23** | **8** |
| *Percent of Total* | *1.27%* | *0.63%* | *0.46%* | *0.28%* |
| **Financial Activities** | **439** | **3,993** | **180** | **95** |
| *Percent of Total* | *5.57%* | *5.05%* | *3.63%* | *3.37%* |
| **Professional and Business Services** | **491** | **4,794** | **148** | **65** |
| *Percent of Total* | *6.23%* | *6.06%* | *2.98%* | *2.31%* |
| **Education and Health Services** | **1,143** | **13,091** | **142** | **496** |
| *Percent of Total* | *14.51%* | *16.56%* | *2.86%* | *17.60%* |
| **Leisure and Hospitality** | **470** | **7,886** | **393** | **132** |
| *Percent of Total* | *5.97%* | *9.98%* | *7.92%* | *4.68%* |
| **Other Services** | **238** | **3,166** | **131** | **65** |
| *Percent of Total* | *3.02%* | *4.01%* | *2.64%* | *2.31%* |
| **Public Administration** | **196** | **1,404** | **0** | **140** |
| *Percent of Total* | 2.49% | 1.78% | 0.00% | 4.97% |
| **Unclassified** | **0** | **8** | **0** | **0** |
| *Percent of Total* | *0.00%* | *0.01%* | *0.00%* | *0.00%* |

Source: Labor Market and Career Information, Texas Workforce Commission, 2015.

## 1.1.10 Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" requires each Federal agency to "make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities on minority populations and low-income populations."

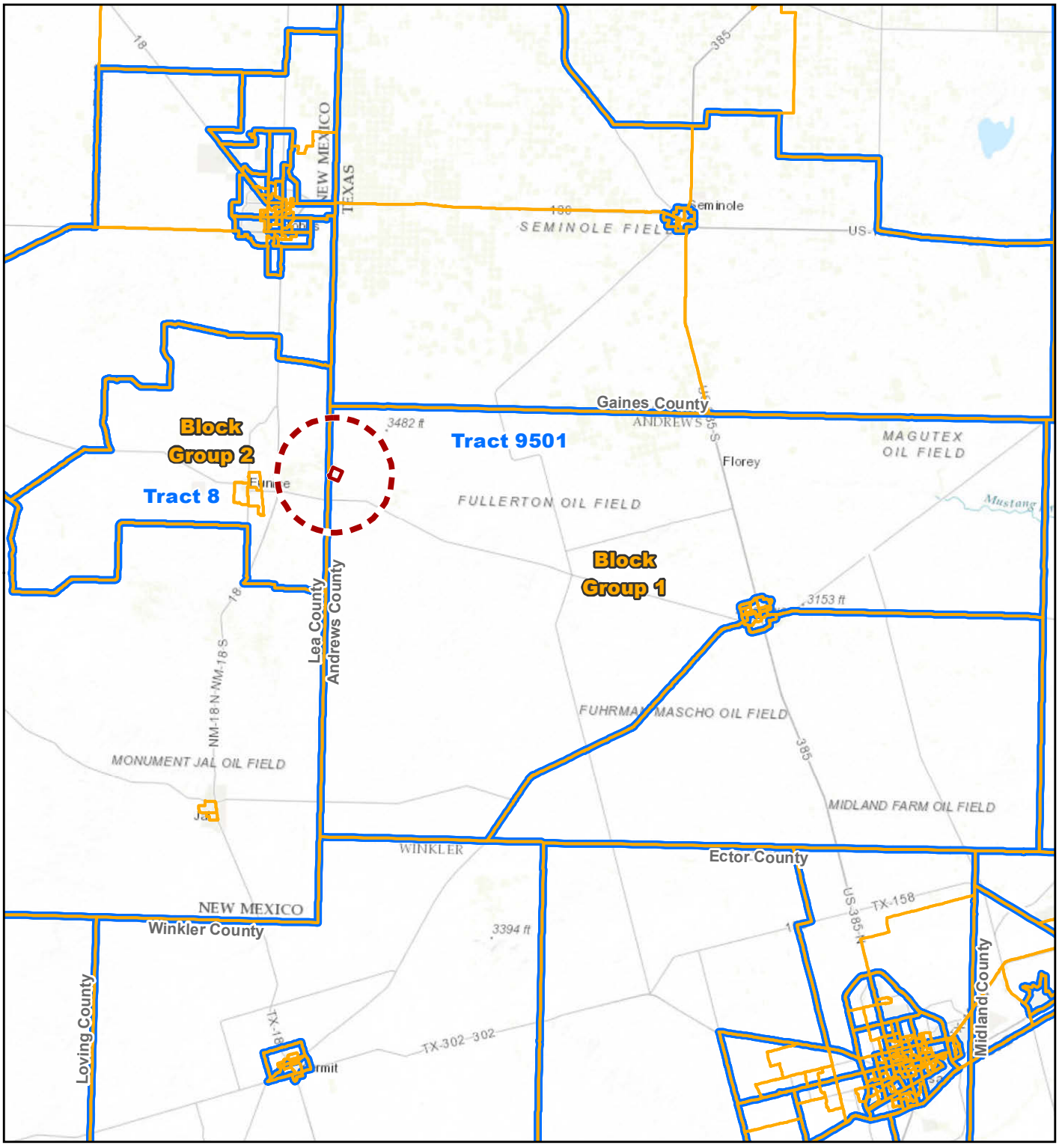
Appendix C ("Environmental Justice Procedures") to NUREG-1748 "Environmental Review Guidance for Licensing Actions Associated with NMSS Programs" (2003) provides detailed guidance for environmental justice analyses. The appendix has a header noting that necessary updates will be made following the issuance of an Environmental Justice Policy Statement. The Final Policy Statement on the Treatment of Environmental Justice Matters in NRC Regulatory and Licensing Actions (2004) does not state that the interim guidance provided in Appendix C to NUREG-1748 has been superseded, and, in fact, continues to reference the appendix. Therefore, Appendix C was utilized as guidance for this analysis.

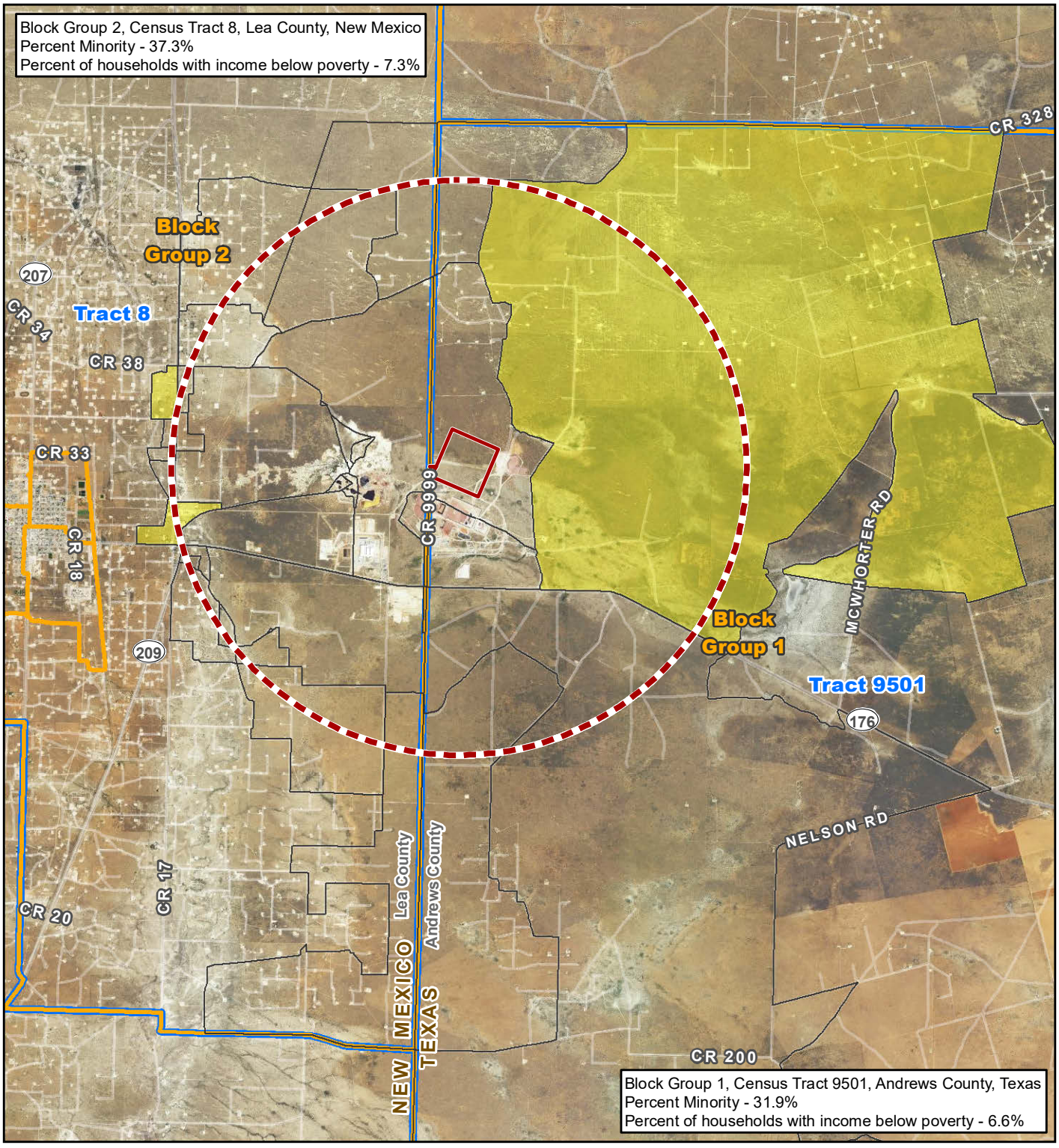
The first step in the environmental justice analysis is gathering demographic data for the area around the proposed facility as well as state and county data for comparison. Appendix C states that if a proposed facility is located outside city limits or in a rural area, a radius of four miles (50 square miles) should be used. The recommended geographic area for evaluating Census data is the block group. As the proposed facility would be located in a rural area outside of city limits, census data on race and income was collected for the block groups within a four-mile radius.

The four-mile radius intersects two block groups, according to the 2010 Census. One block group is within Andrews County, Texas, and the other is within Lea County, New Mexico. Therefore, comparison data was also collected for these counties and the states of Texas and New Mexico (see **Figure 1.1-5, Overview of Area – Census Geographies**, and **1.1-6, Census Geographies Within a Four-Mile Radius of the Site**). Although not required, data for census tracts and the city of Eunice (west of the four-mile study area) is included.

### 1.1.10.1 Identification of Environmental Justice Populations – Minority Populations

Based on the guidance in Appendix C, minority is defined as "individual(s) who are members of the following population groups: American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; African American (not of Hispanic or Latino origin); some other race; and Hispanic or Latino (of any race)." Anyone who identifies themselves as white and a minority will be counted as that minority group. The race and ethnicity characteristics for each geography from Census 2010 are presented below in **Table 1-28**. The "Minority" calculation was conservatively defined as all persons who do not identify themselves as "White Only."


Block Group 2
Tract 8
Tract 9501
Block Group 1
Gaines County
Andrews County
Lea County
Winkler County
Loving County
Ector County
Midland County
NEW MEXICO
TEXAS
SEMINOLE FIELD
FULLERTON OIL FIELD
MAGUTEX OIL FIELD
FUHRMAN MASCHO OIL FIELD
MONUMENT JAL OIL FIELD
MIDLAND FARM OIL FIELD
WINKLER
Seminole
Florey
Mustang
3482 ft
3153 ft
3394 ft
NM-18 N
NM-18 S
TX-158
US-385
TX-302
Project Location
4-mile Study Area
2010 Census Tract
2010 Census Block Group
0
10 Miles
0
15 Kilometers
Figure 1.1-5
Overview of Area
Census Geographies
Proposed Consolidated Interim
Spent Fuel Storage Facility
COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting
Prepared for: WCS
1 in = 10 miles
Scale: 1:633,600
Prepared by: SL
Date: 4/4/2016
Data Source: US Census Bureau (2010)
Basemap Source: ESRI (2014)
G:\Projects\WCS\Figure 1.1-5_Overview of Area_Census Geographies_20160404.mxd




- Project Location
- 4-mile Study Area
- 2010 Census Tract
- 2010 Census Block Group
- 2010 Census Block
- Populated 2010 Census Block within the 4-mile Study Area

0 2 Miles
0 3 Kilometers

**Figure 1.1-6**

**Census Geographies within a 4-mile Radius of the Site**

**Proposed Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility**

COX | McLAIN Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 2 miles |
| | Scale: 1:126,720 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 4/4/2016 |

Data Source: US Census Bureau (2010)
Basemap Source: ESRI (2014)

G:\Projects\WCS\Figure 1.1-6_Census Geographies within 4 miles_20160404.mxd

| Table 1-28: Race and Ethnicity in the Four-Mile Radius and Comparison Geographies (2010) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Census 2010 Geography | Total Population | Not Hispanic | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Hispanic** | | Minority (non-White) | |
| | | White | | Black* | | Indian* | | Asian | | Islander* | | Other* | | Two* | | | | | |
| | | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % |
| **Texas** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BG 1, CT 9501, Andrews County | 1,678 | 1,142 | 68.1 | 6 | 0.4 | 5 | 0.3 | 26 | 1.5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0.1 | 14 | 0.8 | 483 | 28.8 | 536 | 31.9 |
| CT 9501, Andrews County | 1,678 | 1,142 | 68.1 | 6 | 0.4 | 5 | 0.3 | 26 | 1.5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0.1 | 14 | 0.8 | 483 | 28.8 | 536 | 31.9 |
| Andrews County | 14,786 | 7,083 | 47.9 | 199 | 1.3 | 95 | 0.6 | 85 | 0.6 | 1 | 0 | 17 | 0.1 | 111 | 0.8 | 7,195 | 48.7 | 7,703 | 52.1 |
| Texas | 25,145,561 | 11,397,345 | 45.3 | 2,886,825 | 11.5 | 80,586 | 0.3 | 948,426 | 3.8 | 17,920 | 0.1 | 33,980 | 0.1 | 319,558 | 1.3 | 9,460,921 | 37.6 | 13,748,216 | 54.7 |
| **New Mexico** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BG 2, CT 8, Lea County | 727 | 456 | 62.7 | 3 | 0.4 | 2 | 0.3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 1.7 | 254 | 34.9 | 271 | 37.3 |
| CT 8, Lea County | 3,220 | 1,676 | 52 | 30 | 0.9 | 11 | 0.3 | 3 | 0.1 | 2 | 0.1 | 5 | 0.2 | 25 | 0.8 | 1,468 | 45.6 | 1,544 | 48.0 |
| Lea County | 64,727 | 27,845 | 43.0 | 2,399 | 3.7 | 468 | 0.7 | 302 | 0.5 | 18 | 0 | 51 | 0.1 | 581 | 0.9 | 33,063 | 51.1 | 36,882 | 57.0 |
| Eunice | 2,922 | 1,464 | 50.1 | 27 | 0.9 | 11 | 0.4 | 3 | 0.1 | 2 | 0.1 | 5 | 0.2 | 22 | 0.8 | 1,388 | 47.5 | 1,458 | 49.9 |
| New Mexico | 2,059,179 | 833,810 | 40.5 | 35,462 | 1.7 | 175,368 | 8.5 | 26,305 | 1.3 | 1,246 | 0.1 | 3,750 | 0.7 | 29,835 | 1.4 | 953,403 | 46.3 | 1,225,369 | 59.5 |

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1—New Mexico[machine-readable data files]/prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2011. Table P9.

Source: 2010 Census Summary File 1—Texas[machine-readable data files]/prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, 2011. Table P9.

* The complete Census race descriptions are as follows: White alone; Black or African American alone; American Indian and Alaska Native alone; Asian alone; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone; Some Other Race alone; and Two or More Races. **Hispanic persons can be of any race.

As shown in **Table 1-28**, the percentages of the population considered to be minority for the two block groups within the four-mile radius are 37.3 percent and 31.9 percent. The guidance states that if the minority percentage in the relevant block groups exceeds 50 percent, or if the minority percentage in the relevant block groups is more than 20 percentage points greater than the state or county percentages, environmental justice should be considered in greater detail. As shown in **Table 1-28**, the minority percentages for the relevant block groups are below 50 percent and are also each lower than the respective county and state in which the block group is located.

#### 1.1.10.2 Identification of Environmental Justice Populations – Low-income Populations

The guidance in Appendix C states that "low-income is defined as being below the poverty level as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau (e.g., the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Reports, Series P-60 on Income and Poverty)." The 2014 Poverty Thresholds (the most recent data available) were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau and compared to the median household income for the block groups within the four-mile radius, based on data from the 2009–2013 ACS. The median household income levels were conservatively compared to the highest Census poverty threshold ($52,685), as the Census presents several thresholds for varying family sizes and characteristics.

As shown in **Table 1-29**, the median household incomes for the relevant block groups are above the *highest* 2014 Census poverty threshold. In 2014 dollars, these numbers would be even higher.

**Table 1-29: Income in the Four-Mile Radius**

| Census 2010 Geography | Total Households | Median Household Income ($) |
|---|---|---|
| BG 1, CT 9501, Andrews Co., TX | 639 | 88,250 |
| BG 2, CT 8, Lea Co., NM | 274 | 53,036 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009–2013 American Community Survey, Tables B11001 and B19013.

ACS data are estimates; they are not counts. Income data is provided in 2013 inflation adjusted dollars.

Appendix C instructs analysts to determine whether the percentage of low-income households exceeds 50 percent of a given block group, or if the percentage of low-income households in the block groups are more than 20 percentage points greater than the reference area. To this end, data from the 2009–2013 ACS was collected regarding the percentage of households living below the poverty level in the relevant block groups and for the reference geographies.

As shown in **Table 1-30**, neither of the block groups have greater than 50 percent of the households with incomes below the poverty level. Furthermore, the percentages of households with incomes below the poverty level are lower in the block groups than in the reference geographies, and therefore do not exceed the 20 percent criterion.

| Table 1-30: Poverty in the Four-Mile Radius and Comparison Geographies | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Income below poverty level | |
| Geography | Total Households | Number | Percent |
| Block Group 1, Census Tract 9501, Andrews County, Texas | 639 | 42 | 6.6% |
| Andrews County, Texas | 5,217 | 668 | 12.8% |
| Texas | 8,886,471 | 1,395,335 | 15.7% |
| Block Group 2, Census Tract 8, Lea County, New Mexico | 274 | 20 | 7.3% |
| Lea County, New Mexico | 21,126 | 2,911 | 13.8% |
| New Mexico | 761,938 | 139,901 | 18.4% |

Source: Table B17017, ACS 2009–2013 five-year estimates.

Furthermore, no minority or low-income populations were identified within the four-mile study area. Based on the foregoing, further environmental justice analysis is not necessary.

## 1.2 EXISTING FISCAL, GOVERNMENTAL, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### 1.2.1 Andrews County

Located in the oil-rich Permian Basin, Andrews County has produced over two billion barrels of oil since the 1920s. A substantial portion of the area's economy is supported through oil and gas production with over 1,600 laborers, approximately 27 percent of the total work force in this industry in 2011 (TWC 2015). According to the Texas Workforce Commission, the total labor force for Andrews County is 9,654 laborers in March 2015. Most of industry jobs are in natural resources and mining, education and health services, and trade/transport/utilities. Top manufacturers include Andrews Pump & Supply, BP America Production Company, Centrilift, Chevron Corporation, Kirby West Manufacturing, Sargent Industries Oil Well, and Superior Woodwork (Freese and Nichols 2013).

The City of Andrews has been in a period of large economic activity triggered by major industry investments, which have brought in hundreds of high-paying jobs and additional construction activity. There has been a renewed investment in the oil and gas industry, mainly related to the returns from new technology for oil and gas exploration and extraction (Freese and Nichols 2013). Recent examples of new infrastructure and investments include: Performance Center (Olympic sized natatorium for swimming and diving; 1,000-seat concert hall and 2,000-seat gymnasium); two new elementary schools and significant improvements and additions to every school campus in town; City of Andrews Business and Technology Center; a Senior Citizens Activity Center; a new 90-bed Residential Care Facility; two new business parks (energy industry driven); County Special Events Center; Andrews downtown streetscape improvements; and $59 million campus for the Permian

Regional Medical Center approved in 2012. Approximately $163 million in new construction and remodeling has occurred within the City (Freese and Nichols 2013). The City of Andrews is also home to a plant that assembles Kirby vacuum cleaners and a plant that manufactures fiberglass tanks. One library, two banks, three credit unions, and a biweekly newspaper serve the city of Andrews. Fraternal and civil organizations include the Lions Club, Rotary Club, United Way of Andrews, Knights of Columbus, and Girl Scouts of America. Local facilities serving the community of Andrews include 39 churches, a museum, a municipal swimming pool, a golf course, tennis courts, youth club/center/parks, and athletic fields.

Andrews County had a tax base (total certified net taxable value) in 2014 of over $7.2 billion dollars, a general fund tax rate of 0.2936 per $100, and a road and bridge tax rate of .0.0477 per $100 (Andrews County Appraisal District 2015). The county tax levy in 2014 for all funds amounted to almost $21,177,205. Total tax rates (per $100) in 2014 for jurisdictions within the Andrews County Appraisal District include: Andrews Independent School District – a combined rate of $1.17000; City of Andrews – $0.18900; Andrews County – $0.2936; and, Andrews Hospital District – $0.29612.

### 1.2.2 Andrews Independent School District

Andrews Independent School District is the only public school district in Andrews County and comprises one high school, one middle school, three elementary schools, and the Andrews Education Center, with a 2014 student population of 3,758 (TEA 2014). Andrews High School offers a comprehensive curriculum including academic studies for the college bound with advanced courses in several areas, a variety of vocational courses, physical training, and extracurricular activities. The District participates in Class 4A University Interscholastic League competition. The district is in good financial condition. In 2014, certified total net taxable value in the District was over $6.6 million. In 2011, voters approved a $33-million rolling bond to be divided into three phases: one covering costs from 2011–2014, a second becoming available in 2015, and a third in 2019, each being $10 million (KWES NewsWest9 2015). In November 2014, the Andrews ISD was considering seeking an additional rolling bond (CBS7 2014). The Andrews Business and Technology Center was completed in 2006 in conjunction with Odessa College and the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and Odessa College School of Nursing – Andrews Campus also have campuses in Andrews County (AEDC 2015).

### 1.2.3 Andrews ISD Education Foundation

The Andrews ISD Education Foundation (The Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt, nonprofit corporation chartered in April 2000. It is a legal entity that is independent of the school district whose mission is to provide quality educational opportunities in order that all students may become successful and productive citizens. The Foundation operates independently of the Andrews Independent School District for the purpose of:

1. Facilitating student achievement and skill development.
2. Recognizing and promoting staff excellence.
3. Encouraging involvement from individuals, businesses, and civic organizations in the community.

The Foundation's goals are to:

1. Encourage all students to work toward reaching their highest potential.
2. Attract, support, and recognize teachers for innovative efforts and exemplary teaching.
3. Build public awareness and confidence in Andrews schools.
4. Involve the community in assuring a quality education for the leaders and works of tomorrow.

A volunteer Board of Directors with representative community membership governs The Foundation as it seeks funds and sets policy according to its bylaws. The Foundation cooperates with the Andrews ISD to enhance and enrich the educational opportunities of students and teachers of the school district. WCS contributed $13,925.69 in 2014, and $4,537.84 in 2015 as of April 1 to The Foundation.

### 1.2.4 Andrews County Hospital District

Andrews County Hospital District (ACHD) was formed through a public election in May 2001. The ACHD encompasses Andrews County and was organized under Chapter 286 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. The ACHD is governed by a seven-member elected Board of Directors, four of whom are elected based on the four local precincts, and three members elected at large. The Board of Directors is governed by the ACHD bylaws.

ACHD is composed of an 85-bed medical center (Permian Regional Medical Center [PRMC]) and a 90-bed nursing facility (Permian Residential Care Center [PRCC]), which opened in 2004. The PRMC also houses seven physician practices and a quick care clinic with one doctor, three nurse practitioners, and one per diem registered nurse (PRN) (Quick Care Clinic, personal communication 2015). The PRMC is a general acute care facility that provides a wide array of services including General Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Newborn Care, a Level IV trauma Emergency room, and three-bed intensive care unit. It also has the only nuclear medicine and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) capability between the Odessa-Midland area and Lubbock.

In 2003 ACHD, with community support, identified a need to take over the provision of long-term care in the community. The district issued revenue bonds of $5,755,000 to construct PRCC, a new 90-bed nursing home that is physically attached to the medical center on the east side of the building. The new facility opened in October 2004 and has been approved for occupancy.

ACHD is a taxing authority for Andrews County that for fiscal year 2014 had certified total net taxable values of $6,748,528,780. ACHD's taxing authority allows a maximum tax rate of $0.75 per $100 valuation. ACHD's tax rate for fiscal year 2014 was set at $0.29612 per $100 valuation, which generated a 2014 tax levy of $19,989,673 (ACAD 2014a and 2014b).

### 1.2.5 City of Andrews

Andrews County is unique in that it is among the few Texas counties that include only one incorporated city within its borders (the City of Andrews). Over 70 percent of the county's 14,786 residents live within the city limits of Andrews (US Census Bureau 2015a and 2015b).

The City of Andrews currently operates under a Council-Manager form of city government. City Council members are elected by cumulative vote. The Mayor is elected by single-vote majority. Each Council Member has one vote, with the Mayor breaking tie votes only. A general election to elect three council members was held on May 9, 2015.

The 2014–2015 City Budget reflects a continuing commitment of maintaining a high level of customer service, retaining a well-trained, experienced workforce, and investing in long-term infrastructure. The City remains committed to the fiduciary responsibility that it has in managing public resources. Depreciation is full-funded, and the City's only debt – certificates of obligation issued in 2011 for the construction of the Truck Reliever Route – is tied to a voter-approved, dedicated source of revenue (City of Andrews 2014). The City's overall cost of operating is among the lowest in the state and is reflected in a lower-than-average ratio of personnel costs to total operating expenses.

The City of Andrews is recognized for its financial strength, quality of services, and commitment to excellence. The approved FY 2014–2015 Budget, which has been posted on-line (http://www.cityofandrews.org/docs/2015_Budget_Introduction_and_Overview.pdf), provides for the efficient and effective delivery of municipal services.

The General Fund provides for public safety services (police, fire, emergency medical service [EMS], and animal control), public health, streets/traffic maintenance, recreational activities, as well as general finance and administration. The General Fund budget proposes operating revenues of $6,869,358. The Utility Fund provides water production and distribution services as well as sewage collection and treatment for the citizens of Andrews. The 2014–2015 Utility Fund Budget proposes expenditures of $3,065,614, along with $1 million from a transfer to the Utility Capital Improvement Fund, to help finance capital projects benefiting the Utility Fund. Revenues, less operating expenditures and transfers, results in a decrease in the fund balance by $690,167.

The Sanitation Fund provides garbage collection and disposal services. The Sanitation Fund budget has proposed operating expenditures of $1,542,520.

The FY 2014–2015 City Budget also proposed an ambitious Capital Improvements Program with nearly $8.1 million in capital expenditures. Major capital improvement expenditures identified in the FY 2014–2015 City Budget reflect that $5,000,000 is being carried over from the FY 2014 budget for the construction of a water treatment facility, and $500,000 is being carried over to line the wastewater lagoon. The City identified funds for the police car take-home program, coating for the interior of a water storage tank, replacement of 800 water meters, laying new water lines in southwest Andrews, and a new street sweeper.

The FY 2014–2015 City Budget provides for efficient and effective delivery of municipal services. Long-term needs are addressed through "pay-as-you-go" fiscal policies. The City maintains a very low tax rate (0.18900/$100 valuation in 2014), and a lower-than-average ratio of personnel costs to operating expenses.

The Andrews Business & Technology Center opened its doors in 2006. The building is a state-of-the-art facility offering job training, continuing education, higher education courses, the latest in distance learning technology, and the development of numerous quality of life initiatives (AEDC 2015).

### 1.2.6 Andrews Chamber of Commerce, Andrews Industrial Foundation

Andrews County Chamber of Commerce was formed in the 1950s. It was a typical, traditional Chamber of Commerce that had voluntary membership of businesses, both retail and wholesale, in Andrews, Texas whose primary economy was based on oil and gas production. It has been in continuous operation ever since, and has a membership open to anyone in the community that is interested in promoting Andrews from a business, tourism, or cultural standpoint. The current membership is approximately 290 to 302 members (Andrews Chamber of Commerce 2015). The Chamber of Commerce has been supportive of various community initiatives and activities.

The Andrews Industrial Foundation (AIF) is a private foundation that was created in the mid-1960s to seek economic diversification. It has received support from the general business community, as well as from the City, County, school district, and local governments over the years, and has worked in conjunction with those governing bodies to bring new industry to Andrews. The President of the AIF in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s was James Roberts. In the 1990s, Mr. Roberts was approached about the possibility of locating a low-level hazardous waste site in Andrews County because of the arid climate and redbed clay geology. After that, there were visits with the community leaders about the proposal. A public information meeting was held by the AIF and thereafter WCS was formed. More information regarding the coordination with WCS and AIF, along with assistance with community activities historically, can be found in the 2008 Hicks & Company socioeconomic impact study.

WCS has been an active member of the Andrews Chamber of Commerce for many years and has had employees on the board of directors several times. WCS employees are also involved in other community groups, such as the local Rotary Club, Lions Club, Andrews Education Foundation, Hospital Board, United Way, Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce, American Cancer Relay

for Life, Faith in Action, Lea County Economic Development, Chamber Ambassadors, and other volunteer organizations. WCS's contribution to the community includes 160-full time jobs in Andrews County and $13 million in annual payroll, which also adds $4 million in revenue for Andrews County (WCS 2015).

### 1.2.7 Lea County

New Mexico's median property tax is perennially ranked among the eight lowest states in the nation; any change in taxes requires an amendment to the state constitution. One-third, or 33.3 percent, of the valuation of property's market value (assessment) is its taxable value. There are exemptions of $2,000 for heads-of-households, and $4,000 for veterans. The one-third taxable value on property excludes oil and gas properties. The tax applied is a composite of state, county, municipal, school district and other special district levies. Properties outside city limits are taxed at lower rates. Major facilities may be assessed by the New Mexico State Taxation and Revenue Department instead of by the county.

New Mexico communities can abate property taxes on a plant location or expansion for a maximum of 30 years, (usually 20 years in most communities), controlled by the community. The state also has a Gross Receipts Tax paid by product producers. This tax is imposed on businesses in New Mexico, but in almost every case it is passed on to the consumer. In that way, the gross receipts tax resembles a sales tax. The New Mexico Gross Receipts Tax for 2015 is 5.125 percent. The gross receipts tax for the Eunice area is 6.8125 percent, with areas outside of Eunice in the remainder of the county as 5.5 percent (New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department 2015). Certain deductions may apply to this tax for plant equipment.

The Lea County community was initially agriculturally based, but the discovery of oil and gas in the mid-1920s has had a significant impact on the region. Today the county's agricultural heritage continues to have underlying influences on the county's development with an active dairy industry as well as farming and ranching. The oil and gas industry still has a strong effect on the local economy, and in addition, there is a growing manufacturing sector. Five libraries, nine financial institutions, and two daily newspapers serve Lea County. Cities in Lea County that are within the ROI include Hobbs, Eunice and Jal.

In Lea County, there are five public school districts and four private schools; the county has a total of 31 public schools with 15,011 students enrolled in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade during the 2014–2015 academic year (EDCLC 2015). The closest school district is in Eunice, located six miles to the west, with the other districts located in Hobbs, Jal, Lovington, and Tatum. The main campus of the University of the Southwest (USW) is located just north of Hobbs. The 2014 enrollment was approximately 312 students (Personal communication, Michelle Goar, 2015). New Mexico Junior College, located in Hobbs, has a current enrollment of 2,712 full and part time students (Personal communication, Connie Hanson, NMJC 2015). NMJC has a New Mexico Junior College Training and

Outreach Department, which provides workforce training programs throughout the county, including learning vocational skills in a variety of business and vocational-technical fields.

There are two hospitals in Lea County, New Mexico. The Lea Regional Medical Center is located in Hobbs, New Mexico about 20 miles north of the WCS facility. Lea Regional Medical Center is a 201-bed hospital providing complete care, including cardiac care, pediatrics, mental health, and outpatient surgery. The hospitals have 39 active physicians and 34 consulting physicians. In Lovington, New Mexico, 39 miles north-northwest of the facility, Covenant Medical Systems manages Nor-Lea Hospital, a 25-bed Medicare-certified Critical Access Hospital serving southeastern New Mexico. They manage medical clinics in Lovington, Tatum, and Hobbs, and offer a range of outpatient, specialty, image, and infusion services. These clinics include the Lovington Medical Clinic, Nor-Lea Evening Clinic, Family Health Center of Lea County, Tatum Clinic, and the Lovington Student Healthcare Center (Nor-Lea 2012).

### 1.2.8 City of Hobbs

The City of Hobbs FY 2015 Preliminary Budget reveals that the City is in good fiscal condition (City of Hobbs 2015). The Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) is the dominant revenue source in the City's General Fund, and totals approximately 87.5 percent of all General Fund Revenues. The GRT is collected by the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, and is disbursed back to the cities with a lag time of about two months. The current GRT rate in the City of Hobbs is 6.8125 percent.

#### Cities of Eunice and Jal

The City of Eunice, New Mexico, located about six miles west of the processing and storage facilities, has a Mayor-Council form of municipal government and provides water, sewer, and EMS services. In 2014, its general fund expenditures was $4,002,127, and all funds were $10,264,108. The City employed 6 police officers, 2 full-time firefighters, and 21 part-time firefighters in 2012 (City-Data 2012). The City had a residential property tax rate of 28.244 per $1,000 and a non-residential rate of 35.437 per $1,000 within the city in 2014 (LCTAO 2014). The City's Gross Receipts Tax rate was 6.8125 percent within the City limits (NMTRD 2015).

The City of Jal, New Mexico, has a Mayor-Council form of municipal government and provides water, sewer, solid waste, and EMS services. In 2014, its general fund expenditures was $1,514,950, and all funds were $5,904,526. The City employed eight part-time police officers and nine other police staff, and was served by an all-volunteer fire department in 2012 (City-Data 2012). The City had a residential property tax mill rate of 23.784 and a non-residential mill rate of 30.110 within the city in 2014 (LCTAO 2014). The City's Gross Receipts Tax rate was 7.0625 percent within the City limits (NMTRD 2015).

### 1.2.9 Public Safety in Andrews and Lea Counties

Fire protection is provided from both Texas and New Mexico. The Andrews Volunteer Fire Department is staffed by a Fire Marshal and three companies, each led by a Fire Chief. The department has 44 active firemen. Equipment includes 23 trucks and one hazardous materials trailer. The trucks includes:

- Three pumper trucks
- One tanker
- Four booster trucks
- One foam application boom truck used primarily for fighting oilfield fires
- Two chief officers' trucks,
- One hazmat trailer; and
- One rescue truck

Lea County has three volunteer fire departments located in Knowles, Maljamar, and Monument. There are a total of nine fire departments in Lea County, with five being municipal fire departments. The Knowles Fire Department is a 30-member, totally volunteer, fire/EMS organization that has 13 firefighters/EMTs, 14 firefighters, and 3 dispatchers. The fire department has 3 Class A Engines with pump and roll capabilities, 2 water tankers, 2 wildland grass rigs, with a total rolling water capacity of 14,000 gallons. The Maljamar Fire Department has one station with 17 volunteer firefighters.

The City of Hobbs is staffed by 74 uniformed and 4 civilian employees. They have hazardous materials duties, emergency medical service and support, as well as fire prevention and suppression, provided at three fire station locations.

Mutual aid agreements are in place with Lea County and the City of Eunice. Fire and emergency support services for the Eunice area are provided by Eunice Fire and Rescue located approximately six miles from the processing and storage facility. Equipment at the Eunice Fire and Rescue includes three ambulances, three pumper fire trucks, three grass fire trucks, and one rescue truck. If additional fire equipment is needed, or if the Eunice Fire and Rescue is unavailable, the Central Dispatch will call the Hobbs Fire Department. In instances where radioactive/hazardous materials are involved, knowledgeable members of the WCS Emergency Response Organization (ERO) provide information and assistance to the responding off-site personnel.

The Andrews Sheriff's Department and Police Department are the primary law enforcement for Andrews County. The force consists of 15 police officers, including the chief, a school resource officer, administrative assistant, and an animal control officer. All officers are certified in emergency services as paramedics or EMTs. There are three shifts, with four officers assigned to each shift, with each shift having a police supervisor overseeing the 8-hour shift. A dispatcher in the County's Sheriff's Department dispatches officers, ambulance, and fire personnel. If additional resources are needed,

officers from mutual aid communities within Lea County, New Mexico, and the City of Eunice, can provide an additional level of response. The Eunice Police Department, with five full-time officers, provides local law enforcement. The Lea County Sheriff's Department also maintains a substation in the community of Eunice.

## 1.3 EXISTING SOCIAL STRUCTURE IN THE REGION OF INTEREST

This section assesses various characteristics of the project area to gain a basic understanding of social structure in the ROI. For a detailed analysis of social and cultural history in the project area focused on recent WCS licensing activities, including opinion surveys, see the Socioeconomic Impact Assessment for the Low-Level Waste Disposal Facility (2007) and License Renewal (2008) by Hicks & Company, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services licensing requirements.

### 1.3.1 Historical Summary

The 2008 WCS license application includes a detailed history of social attitudes in the Region of Interest. In summary, the residents of the ROI have generational experience with a cyclical resource extraction economy; a long history with risk-associated industries, including toxic and flammable chemicals and gases (such as hydrogen sulfide), and the transportation of these materials; an increasingly effective regulatory regime to protect the environment; a long-term desire to increase economic diversification and more stable growth of employment and income in the area; and prospects for a more diverse occupational and income structure. In general, the ROI population appears to have the common social objectives of good jobs for their children, maintenance of all age sectors within their populations, and more opportunities for college-educated residents. The populations of the ROI have experienced "boom-bust" cycles for more than 30 years and have benefited from the development of the waste and nuclear energy sectors within recent decades. Residents seek higher incomes and job opportunities for community residents. Basic sectors still dominate industry along with resource extraction, but the regional economy is anticipated to benefit from expansion of the growing waste disposal and related nuclear energy industry.

### 1.3.2 Social Stratification Analysis

In the context of the specific history of the area, there are numerous shared life experiences that indicate a commonality of interests. As discussed in detail in the WCS 2008 Socioeconomic Impact Assessment, the ROI shares a dependence upon the variable vitality of the petroleum industry and to a lesser extent, the hardships inherent in dry land agriculture. Both of these industries are highly dependent upon external events, such as the international price of oil, rainfall, and/or cattle demand. To a large extent, large corporations and/or governmental entities create the circumstances of work and income for workers in these industries, for workers in related and dependent businesses; these influences in turn affect the adequacy of community infrastructure, housing costs, and numerous other community effects. Increasingly, the job base created by the construction of the URENCO USA

facility and associated industry is benefitting economies in the ROI including infrastructure and community services.

#### 1.3.2.1 Employment

As can be computed for the ROI from **Table 1-26**, the labor participation rate (the total persons in the labor force divided by total population 16 years and over) in the ROI (Ector, Andrews, Gaines, and Winkler Counties, Texas, and Lea County, New Mexico) was 65.1 percent (118,345 out of 181,678). This is essentially the same as for Texas but higher than the rate in New Mexico. There was an approximately 60.7 percent labor participation rate in New Mexico (979,565 participating out of 1,612,730 in the work force 16 and older) and approximately 65.2 percent in Texas (with 12,691,031 participating out of 19,468,136 persons over 16 in the work force). In Lea County, labor participation was 61.6 percent. In Eunice it was 65.9 percent and in Hobbs it was 60.7 percent. Jal had the lowest labor participation rate at 53.0 percent. In Andrews County, the labor participation rate was 65.4 and it was 62.9 percent in Gaines County. Approximately 62.6 percent of persons over 16 participated in the labor force in the City of Andrews and 64.9 participated in Seminole. In Ector County, the labor participation rate was 67.2 percent, and in Winkler County it was about 61.3 percent.

The rate of employment in basic labor sectors (defined for this area as agriculture and mining, manufacturing, construction and transportation) is significant. As shown in **Table 1-25**, the economic sector including agriculture and mining (which includes oil and mineral extraction) ranges from a low of 13.4 in Seminole to a high of 27.8 in the city of Andrews, with 25.4 percent in Eunice. In Lea and Andrews counties, 21.2 and 27.6 percent of persons work in these sectors compared to the states of New Mexico and Texas, where 4.4 percent and 3.1 percent respectively are employed in these sectors. When added together the basic sectors for all counties in the ROI make up 39.1 percent of employment compared to 25.8 percent in Texas and 21.0 percent in New Mexico.

In sectors that generally require higher educational attainment (e.g., information; finance, insurance, real estate; professional, scientific, administrative and waste management services); the counties within the ROI employ approximately 11.1 percent of their workers in these industries, compared to 19.2 percent in Texas or 17.2 percent in New Mexico. See **Table 1-11** for educational attainment in the ROI.

Similar rate of employment by sector were identified by the Texas Workforce Commission annual reports of Jobs. As shown in **Table 1-27**, the natural resources and mining sector was a major employer in the ROI, constituting 26.08 percent in Andrews, 45.10 percent in Gaines County, and 30.62 percent in Winkler County.

A review of **Table 1-31** indicates that in Lea County, 79.2 percent of workers 16 and over travel less than 25 minutes to work. Approximately 70 percent of Eunice residents travel less than 25 minutes to work. In Hobbs, 83.5 percent of persons travel less than 25 minutes to work, while 68.9 percent of Jal's commuters travel less than 25 minutes. In Andrews County, 65.2 percent of workers travel less than 25 minutes to work and 63.2 percent in Andrews City travel less than 25 minutes to work. In Gaines, 79.9 percent of workers travel 25 minutes or less compared 87.7 percent of Seminole workers. In Winkler County, 70.4 percent of workers travel less than 25 minutes to work, compared to 76.9 percent in Ector County. Overall in New Mexico, approximately 68.4 percent of workers travel 25 minutes or less while in Texas, 58.2 percent of workers travel that amount of time to work. The majority of workers in the ROI travel 25 minutes or less for work, indicating that they live and work in relatively close proximity.

With regard to employment versus unemployment by race, data can be found in **Table 1-24**. Note that data from the American Community Survey is based on statistical analysis estimates rather than 100 percent census data or counts, so it is accompanied by a margin of error. Within the ROI, the population with the highest percentage employed is Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (100%) in Gaines and Ector counties, and Seminole, Texas, however that is for a total of 35 persons in Ector County, and 48 persons in Gaines County and Seminole, Texas, which is a fraction of the total population of 104,044 (Ector County), 12,468 (Gaines County) and 5,080 (Seminole). In comparison, the population with the highest percentage of unemployed is Black and African American (100%) in Jal, New Mexico. As with the number of employed, the number of persons within this population (15) is relatively small as compared to the total population of 1,612. The Hispanic population constitutes the largest minority group in the ROI and unemployment rates range from a low of 1.9 percent in Jal, New Mexico, and a high of Winkler County to 10.1 percent in Lea County, New Mexico.

#### 1.3.2.2 Labor Force Participation and Unemployment Distribution

The "boom-bust" cycle in the oil sector is best represented by longitudinal analysis of population, labor force participation and unemployment trends. Population analysis of data from 1920–2010 are shown in **Table 1-32**. As shown, after the discovery of oil in the 1920's, population grew rapidly in Lea, Andrews, and Ector counties through 1960. This growth also occurred to a lesser extent in Gaines, and Winkler counties (with Winkler County experiencing very large growth between 1920 and 1930). Andrews and Gaines counties grew more than 100 percent between 1940 and 1950, and between 1950 and 1960. Regional population after 1960 either declined or stabilized through 2000.

| Table 1-31: Travel Time to Work in the Nation and Region of Interest (2009 – 2013) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Travel Time | Lea County, New Mexico | Eunice, New Mexico | Hobbs, New Mexico | Jal, New Mexico | Andrews County, Texas | Andrews, Texas | Gaines County, Texas | Seminole, Texas | Winkler County, Texas | Ector County, Texas | New Mexico | Texas | United States |
| **Total Workers 16 years and over** | **25,967** | **1,412** | **13,361** | **795** | **6,685** | **4,774** | **7,051** | **2,927** | **3,012** | **62,866** | **826,524** | **10,983,502** | **133,740,254** |
| **Did not work at home** | **25,259** | **1,377** | **12,989** | **783** | **6,490** | **4,632** | **6,903** | **2,912** | **2,942** | **61368** | **784,111** | **10,521,990** | **127,693,869** |
| **Less than 5 minutes** | **1,762** | **178** | **830** | **100** | **659** | **502** | **1,102** | **406** | **543** | **2,647** | **35,443** | **333,493** | **4,308,933** |
| *Percentage* | *6.8%* | *12.6%* | *6.2%* | *12.6%* | *9.9%* | *10.5%* | *15.6%* | *13.9%* | *18%* | *4.2%* | *4.3%* | *3%* | *3.2%* |
| **5 to 9 minutes** | **5,022** | **310** | **2,545** | **228** | **1,691** | **1,271** | **1,982** | **1,129** | **860** | **8,478** | **109,113** | **1,105,605** | **13,714,706** |
| *Percentage* | *19.3%* | *22%* | *19%* | *28.7%* | *25.3%* | *26.6%* | *28.1%* | *38.6%* | *28.6%* | *13.5%* | *13.2%* | *10.1%* | *10.3%* |
| **10 to 14 minutes** | **6,545** | **198** | **4,209** | **161** | **1,025** | **708** | **991** | **582** | **334** | **13,627** | **144,373** | **1,569,957** | **19,150,654** |
| *Percentage* | *25.2%* | *14%* | *31.5%* | *20.3%* | *15.3%* | *14.8%* | *14.1%* | *19.9%* | *11.1%* | *21.7%* | *17.5%* | *14.3%* | *14.3%* |
| **15 to 19 minutes** | **4,518** | **75** | **2,641** | **34** | **837** | **487** | **991** | **323** | **288** | **14,085** | **152,151** | **1,761,760** | **20,753,054** |
| *Percentage* | *17.4%* | *5.3%* | *19.8%* | *4.3%* | *12.5%* | *10.2%* | *14.1%* | *11%* | *9.6%* | *22.4%* | *18.4%* | *16%* | *15.5%* |
| **20 to 24 minutes** | **2,726** | **227** | **933** | **24** | **149** | **53** | **563** | **127** | **93** | **9,501** | **123,775** | **1,626,711** | **19,796,414** |
| *Percentage* | *10.5%* | *16.1%* | *7%* | *3%* | *2.2%* | *1.1%* | *8%* | *4.3%* | *3.1%* | *15.1%* | *15%* | *14.8%* | *14.8%* |
| **25 to 29 minutes** | **808** | **119** | **393** | **24** | **102** | **97** | **224** | **41** | **34** | **2,003** | **41,705** | **640,387** | **8,189,640** |
| *Percentage* | *3.1%* | *8.4%* | *2.9%* | *3%* | *1.5%* | *2%* | *3.2%* | *1.4%* | *1.1%* | *3.2%* | *5%* | *5.8%* | *6.1%* |
| **30 to 34 minutes** | **2,233** | **134** | **871** | **64** | **592** | **457** | **601** | **93** | **205** | **5,695** | **99,121** | **1,644,071** | **18,220,851** |
| *Percentage* | *8.6%* | *9.5%* | *6.5%* | *8.1%* | *8.9%* | *9.6%* | *8.5%* | *3.2%* | *6.8%* | *9.1%* | *12%* | *15%* | *13.6%* |
| **35 to 39 minutes** | **155** | **0** | **51** | **14** | **205** | **169** | **18** | **14** | **20** | **629** | **14,188** | **289,616** | **3,673,571** |
| *Percentage* | *0.6%* | *0%* | *0.4%* | *1.8%* | *3.1%* | *3.5%* | *0.3%* | *0.5%* | *0.7%* | *1%* | *1.7%* | *2.6%* | *2.7%* |
| **40 to 44 minutes** | **224** | **30** | **64** | **25** | **195** | **195** | **49** | **33** | **13** | **942** | **19,798** | **382,174** | **4,920,004** |
| *Percentage* | *0.9%* | *2.1%* | *0.5%* | *3.1%* | *2.9%* | *4.1%* | *0.7%* | *1.1%* | *0.4%* | *1.5%* | *2.4%* | *3.5%* | *3.7%* |
| **45 to 59 minutes** | **379** | **40** | **122** | **48** | **588** | **376** | **182** | **20** | **200** | **1,671** | **43,747** | **851,111** | **10,154,523** |
| *Percentage* | *1.5%* | *2.8%* | *0.9%* | *6%* | *8.8%* | *7.9%* | *2.6%* | *0.7%* | *6.6%* | *2.7%* | *5.3%* | *7.7%* | *7.6%* |
| **60 to 89 minutes** | **976** | **76** | **354** | **73** | **350** | **258** | **203** | **91** | **231** | **1,696** | **27,692** | **555,552** | **7,488,235** |
| *Percentage* | *3.8%* | *5.4%* | *2.6%* | *9.2%* | *5.2%* | *5.4%* | *2.9%* | *3.1%* | *7.7%* | *2.7%* | *3.4%* | *5.1%* | *5.6%* |
| **90 or more minutes** | **619** | **25** | **348** | **0** | **292** | **201** | **145** | **68** | **191** | **1,892** | **15,418** | **223,065** | **3,369,669** |
| *Percentage* | *2.4%* | *1.8%* | *2.6%* | *0%* | *4.4%* | *4.2%* | *2.1%* | *2.3%* | *6.3%* | *3%* | *1.9%* | *2%* | *2.5%* |

Source: ACS 2009–2013 Table B99084 & B08303.

| Table 1-32: Historic Population Trends in the Region of Interest | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Year** | **Lea County, NM** | **Andrews County, TX** | **Gaines County, TX** | **Winkler County, TX** | **Ector County, TX** | **New Mexico** | **Texas** |
| 1920 | 3,545 | 350 | 1,018 | 81 | 760 | 360,350 | 4,663,228 |
| *Percent Change 1920-1930* | *73.3%* | *110.3%* | *175%* | *8,375.3%* | *420.8%* | *17.5%* | *24.9%* |
| 1930 | 6,144 | 736 | 2,800 | 6,784 | 3,958 | 423,317 | 5,824,715 |
| *Percent Change 1930-1940* | *244.3%* | *73.5%* | *190.6%* | *-9.5%* | *280.3%* | *25.6%* | *10.1%* |
| 1940 | 21,154 | 1,277 | 8,136 | 6,141 | 15,051 | 531,818 | 6,414,824 |
| *Percent Change 1940-1950* | *45.2%* | *291.7%* | *9.5%* | *63.9%* | *179.7%* | *28.1%* | *20.2%* |
| 1950 | 30,717 | 5,002 | 8,909 | 10,064 | 42,102 | 681,187 | 7,711,194 |
| *Percent Change 1950-1960* | *73.9%* | *168.9%* | *37.7%* | *35.7%* | *116.1%* | *39.6%* | *24.2%* |
| 1960 | 53,429 | 13,450 | 12,267 | 13,652 | 90,995 | 951,023 | 9,579,677 |
| *Percent Change 1960-1970* | *-7.3%* | *-22.9%* | *-5.5%* | *-29.4%* | *0.9%* | *6.8%* | *16.9%* |
| 1970 | 49,554 | 10,372 | 11,593 | 9,640 | 91,805 | 1,016,000 | 11,196,730 |
| *Percent Change 1970-1980* | *13%* | *28.5%* | *13.4%* | *3.2%* | *25.7%* | *28.2%* | *27.1%* |
| 1980 | 55,993 | 13,323 | 13,150 | 9,944 | 115,374 | 1,302,894 | 14,229,191 |
| *Percent Change 1980-1990* | *-0.4%* | *7.6%* | *7.4%* | *-13.3%* | *3.1%* | *16.3%* | *19.4%* |
| 1990 | 55,765 | 14,338 | 14,123 | 8,626 | 118,934 | 1,515,069 | 16,986,510 |
| *Percent Change 1990-2000* | *-0.5%* | *-9.3%* | *2.4%* | *-16.8%* | *1.8%* | *20.1%* | *22.8%* |
| 2000 | 55,511 | 13,004 | 14,467 | 7,173 | 121,123 | 1,819,046 | 20,851,820 |
| *Percent Change 2000-2010* | *16.6%* | *13.7%* | *21.1%* | *-0.9%* | *13.2%* | *13.2%* | *20.6%* |
| 2010 | 64,727 | 14,786 | 17,526 | 7,110 | 137,130 | 2,059,179 | 25,145,561 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census; City and County Data Book (through 2000); U.S. Census for 2010 data because the data book was last published in 2007.

Between 2000 and 2010, growth occurred again in Lea, Andrews, Gaines, and Ector counties with a slight decline in Winkler County's population. Data from the mid-1980s, 1990, and 2000 from the City and County Data Book files (2000) were examined for patterns. The last published version of this document was 2007 so the 2010 census was used for 2010 data. Focusing on Lea County and Andrews County, as indicated in **Table 1-33**, after the resurgent oil economy of the late 1970s and early 1990s, there was a significant drop in oil prices followed by a reduction in oil production, some capping of wells, the closure of two oil company administrative offices in Andrews, and the loss of a natural gas industry administrative office in Jal. Population declined between 1980 and 1990 in Lea and Winkler Counties. With the decline in population, labor force participation increased, while unemployment actually decreased. Per capita income in constant dollars (accounting for inflation) decreased slightly and in current dollars grew at about half of the state rate of increase. Population increased and labor force participation increased; unemployed remained low; and per capital income actually increased. Between 1990 and 2000, population in Lea, Andrews, and Winkler Counties declined and population slightly increased in Gaines and Ector counties. During that same time period, overall population in New Mexico and Texas grew by more than 20 percent. The period between 2000 and 2008 includes the so-called "energy crisis" where prices for a barrel of oil steadily increased until they arguably peaked in 2008, with various impacts on the global economy. Oil and gas prices reached between 120 and 140 dollars a barrel, with very steep declines after that down into the 40s and below by 2009 (Phillips 2015). In Texas, the Permian Basis has anchored the ROI in oil and gas and related activities, such that populations again grew in the ROI between 2000 and 2010 for all counties in the ROI except Winkler County.

While this effect of steady or increasing labor force participation and decreased unemployment may seem contradictory, it has been found to be a common "boom-bust" effect of rapid industrialization. With a growing basic industry, more people move in than can be supported during the slowing of the boom. Following a boom, the oil-related tax revenues can be used to grow services and infrastructure and there is often a lag period between the extremes of growth, unemployment, out-migration, and a gradual increase in jobs for the people remaining, typically in lower paying sectors (Summers, et al. 1976).

In the ROI, it is likely that additional women entered the labor force in health, education, and retail trades to supplement family income, partly due to local economic conditions and also in alignment with national trends. To investigate this effect further, in- and out-migration data for the region from the 2010 census were examined for the 2008 to 2012 period. During this period, the oil industry was fluctuating. In-migration between 2008 and 2012 exceeded out-migration, primarily, as shown on **Table 1-34** with the highest example of in-migration from a different state being Lea County, New Mexico. Over this time period, net migration calculated by subtracting total out-migration from total in-migration was positive for Lea, Andrews, Winkler, and Ector Counties (with the highest net migration), with out-migration exceeding in-migration only for Gaines County, Texas.

| Table 1-33: Selected Economic Trends in the Region of Interest | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Variables** | **Lea Co.** | **New Mexico** | **Andrews Co.** | **Texas** |
| Population 1986 | 65,080 | 1,426,185 | 15,837 | 16,087,289 |
| Population >14 yrs. 1986 | 45,490 | 1,061,080 | 15,837 | 12,176,078 |
| Civilian Labor Force 1986 | 25,498 | 627,000 | 8,258 | 8,159,000 |
| Labor Force Participation 1986 | 56.05% | 59.09% | 52.14% | 67.01% |
| Percent Unemployment 1986 | 12.50% | 9.20% | 8.80% | 8.00% |
| Per capita Income (Current $) 1985 | $11,436 | $10,256 | $12,893 | $12,575 |
| Population 1992 | 55,765 | 1,515,069 | 14,338 | 16,986,510 |
| Population >16 yrs. 1990 | 37,251 | 1,068,124 | 9,377 | 12,145,355 |
| Civilian Labor Force 1990 | 23,013 | 715,000 | 6,156 | 8,555,000 |
| Labor Force Participation 1990 | 61.78% | 66.94% | 65.65% | 70.44% |
| Percent Unemployment 1990 | 7.20% | 6.90% | 6.90% | 6.60% |
| Per capita Income (Current $) 1989 | $13,428 | $14,254 | $15,316 | $16,717 |
| Population 2000 | 55,511 | 1,629,146 | 13,004 | 21,325,018 |
| Population >16 yrs. 2000 | 38,824 | 1,320,572 | 8,900 | 19,238,259 |
| Civilian Labor Force 2000 | 24,634 | 832,835 | 4,998 | 10,324,527 |
| Labor Force Participation 2000 | 63.45% | 63.07% | 56.16% | 53.67% |
| Percent Unemployment 2000 | 4.80% | 4.90% | 5.80% | 4.20% |
| Per capita Income (Current $) 1999 | $18,756 | $21,164 | $17,351 | $25,369 |
| Population 2006 | 57,312 | 1,954,599 | 12,952 | 23,507,783 |
| Population >15 years old | 44,302 | 1,548,042 | 10,011 | 18,077,485 |
| Civilian Labor Force | 26,803 | 935,350 | 7,022 | 11,487,496 |
| Labor Force Participation 2006 | 60.50% | 60.40% | 70.10% | 63.50% |
| Percent Unemployment 2006 | 3.2% | 4.2% | 3.5% | 4.9% |
| Per capita Income (Current $) 2005 | $27,636 | $27,889 | $27,727 | $32,460 |

Source: City and County Data Book, 1988, 1994, 2000, and 2007.

| Table 1-34: In-Migration and Out-Migration by County (2008–2012) | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Domestic In-Migration | | | Domestic Out-Migration | | | 5-Year Net Migration (Total In-Migration minus Total Out-Migration) |
| Geographic Area | From Same State | From Different State | Total Migration | To Same State | To Different State | Total Migration | |
| Lea County | 1,358 | 2,468 | 3,826 | 1,351 | 1,913 | 3,264 | 562 |
| Andrews County | 822 | 313 | 1,135 | 535 | 230 | 765 | 370 |
| Gaines County | 632 | 242 | 874 | 668 | 347 | 1,015 | –141 |
| Winkler County | 448 | 133 | 581 | 313 | - | 313 | 268 |
| Ector County | 6,620 | 2,095 | 8,715 | 5,083 | 1,370 | 6,453 | 2,262 |

Source: ACS (2008–2012) Census Flow Mapper.
http://flowsmapper.geo.census.gov/flowsmapper/flowsmapper.html.

These gross effects of net out-migration are not borne equally by the ROI's population. As indicated in **Table 1-24**, Employment Status in the ROI, 2010, the unemployment rate for most races in most geographies was lower than for Texas or New Mexico. Note that the ACS data is statistical sampling which is not census data, so there is a margin of error associated with the data (and the percentages). Nonetheless, unemployment was lower than for Texas and New Mexico in the majority of races and geographies. The exceptions were that for all persons in Lea County, the unemployment rate was below New Mexico's rate but above the Texas rate. The unemployment rate for Black or African American persons; American Indian/Alaska Native; and Other Race in Lea County was lower than in the state of New Mexico but higher than in Texas. In Eunice, populations were too low to register statistically for some races, but unemployment was higher than in Texas or New Mexico for persons from Other races, but otherwise lower than state rates. In Hobbs, unemployment was lower than for the states for all persons, Black or African Americans, Asians, and Hispanics, but higher for American Indian/Alaska Natives, Other Races, and Two or More Races. In Jal, Andrews County and the City of Andrews, unemployment was lower than the states for all races except Black or African American. In Gaines County, unemployment was lower than the states for all races except Two or More Races. In Seminole, unemployment was lower than the states for all groups except Hispanics, and in Winkler unemployment was higher than the states for American Indian and Alaska Natives. In Ector County, unemployment rates for all races except for people of a race not listed were lower than for New Mexico and Texas.

#### 1.3.2.3 Income

As shown in **Table 1-35**, median household income according to ACS ranges from approximately $48,000 to nearly $58,000 in the ROI. Income levels are highest for White persons, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asians in some areas and lowest for Black or African American persons. Hispanic median household incomes range from $44,000 to almost $49,000, and are higher than for New Mexico or Texas. Given that this is statistical data, the data set is larger for Hispanic persons and therefor more consistent across geographies when compared to some smaller racial groups or geographies. In terms of poverty status, as shown in **Table 1-36**, according to ACS data the

| Table 1-35: Income of Households by Race and Age in the Region of Interest (2009–2013) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Subject** | **Lea County, New Mexico** | **Eunice, New Mexico** | **Hobbs, New Mexico** | **Jal, New Mexico** | **Andrews County, Texas** | **Andrews, Texas** | **Gaines County, Texas** | **Seminole, Texas** | **Winkler County, Texas** | **Ector County, Texas** | **New Mexico** | **Texas** |
| Median Households Income | 50,694 | 54,152 | 49,243 | 48,790 | 57,825 | 53,833 | 52,910 | 50,911 | 48,992 | 51,466 | 44,927 | 51,900 |
| White median income | 55,240 | 75,875 | 53,103 | 49,479 | 60,929 | 58,608 | 55,230 | 52,917 | 55,444 | 55,654 | 54,334 | 63,924 |
| Black or African American median income | 39,203 | - | 32,098 | - | 36,645 | 36,908 | 29,028 | - | 33,958 | 35,379 | 41,214 | 38,156 |
| American Indian/Alaska Native median income | 62,216 | - | 68,125 | - | 93,185 | 93,185 | 86,438 | - | - | 41,125 | 32,136 | 45,161 |
| Asian median income | 18,450 | - | - | - | 135,435 | 135,435 | - | - | - | 81,042 | 57,457 | 71,259 |
| Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander median income | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 32,071 | 59,276 |
| Hispanic or Latino median income | 46,805 | 48,542 | 46,927 | 45,139 | 49,034 | 44,190 | 47,536 | 48,018 | 45,147 | 48,723 | 36,851 | 39,629 |
| Median Household Income by Age of Householder | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 to 24 years | 37,262 | 34,375 | 35,827 | 49,375 | 66,307 | 66,989 | 91,686 | 90,698 | 38,750 | 40,062 | 23,535 | 25,601 |
| 25 to 44 years | 61,086 | 53,884 | 55,362 | 60,078 | 64,018 | 59,360 | 56,136 | 64,219 | 56,420 | 60,196 | 46,884 | 54,524 |
| 45 to 64 years | 62,357 | 81,304 | 57,370 | 65,938 | 80,827 | 80,176 | 63,450 | 60,809 | 60,625 | 58,926 | 54,447 | 63,165 |
| 65 years and over | 30,453 | 37,969 | 31,725 | 29,091 | 20,077 | 19,625 | 25,591 | 22,333 | 22,112 | 30,030 | 35,779 | 36,915 |

Source: ACS Survey Table S1903.

| Table 1-36: Poverty Status of Families by Race in the Region of Interest (2009–2013) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Lea County, New Mexico** | **Eunice, New Mexico** | **Hobbs, New Mexico** | **Jal, New Mexico** | **Andrews County, Texas** | **Andrews, Texas** | **Gaines County, Texas** | **Seminole, Texas** | **Winkler County, Texas** | **Ector County, Texas** | **New Mexico** | **Texas** |
| Total Families | 15,560 | 834 | 7,861 | 566 | 3,913 | 2,923 | 4,158 | 1,530 | 1,875 | 35,011 | 498,457 | 6,206,755 |
| Families below poverty | 12.0% | 8.3% | 13.8% | 4.4% | 9.5% | 10.7% | 14.7% | 12.5% | 7.8% | 13.1% | 15.6% | 13.7% |
| **Families with a householder who is:** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White below poverty level | 6.7% | 2.6% | 8.7% | 3.5% | 6.7% | 8.1% | 12.3% | 11.7% | 4.1% | 8.0% | 7.3% | 5.9% |
| Black or African American below poverty level | 22.4% | - | 27.8% | 0.0% | 3.0% | 3.4% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 26.0% | 22.5% | 20.5% |
| American Indian/Alaska Native below poverty level | 0.0% | - | 0.0% | - | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 13.5% | 29.7% | 18.5% |
| Asian below poverty level | - | - | - | - | 0.0% | 0.0% | - | - | 0.0% | 0.0% | 11.0% | 9.1% |
| Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander below poverty level | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0.0% | 36.6% | 14.9% |
| Hispanic or Latino below poverty level | 17.1% | 14.1% | 17.3% | 6.4% | 12.7% | 13.3% | 19.5% | 14.0% | 12.0% | 16.7% | 22.2% | 23.7% |

Source: ACS Survey Table S1702.

percentage in poverty are highest for Black or African American populations in Lea County and Hobbs, New Mexico, and Ector County, Texas. Percentages below poverty are consistent across the ROI for Hispanic persons, ranging from a low of six percent in Jal to a high of 19.5 percent in Gaines County. Overall, families in poverty constitute between 4 and 15 percent in the ROI, with just over 15 percent in New Mexico and just over 13 percent in Texas. Again, these are statistics rather than census data and are accompanied by a margin of error.

#### 1.3.2.4 Housing

As indicated in **Tables 1-18** and **1-20**, housing within the ROI is less expensive than within the respective states, with median home values at less than $100,000 in all components of the ROI compared to more than $100,000 in Texas ($128,900) and New Mexico ($160,000). The lowest median home values were in Winkler County at $45,100 and Jal, New Mexico, at $63,900. Median rent asked in the ROI ranged from $575/month in Winkler to $863/month in Seminole compared to $758/month in New Mexico and $851/month in Texas. The number of owner-occupied units substantially exceeded renter-occupied units in the ROI by roughly double. From a race perspective, White and Hispanic owners and renters constituted a substantial portion of the residential populations in the ROI.

A database search of homes currently for sale revealed that in Eunice, the closest town to the proposed site, on May 6, 2015, there were five single family homes for sale ranging in price from $99,000 to $140,000. On the same day in Andrews, Texas, there were 175 homes or lots for sale ranging in price from more than $4 million for 25 acres of land down to $25,000 for one-quarter to one-half acre of land. Existing homes were listed for $69,900 to $1.6 million (www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-search/).

#### 1.3.2.5 General Summary of Stratification

Looking at selected economic trends over time in the ROI (Lea and Andrews Counties in particular), from 1986 to 2006 it appears that the labor force participation was lower than became equivalent between Lea County and New Mexico, and was lower and subsequently exceeded labor force participation in Andrews County compared to Texas. Unemployment rates were historically equivalent to or higher in the counties compared to the states, but by 2006 they were lower in the counties compared to the states. Per capita income levels used to be lower in counties compared to states but by 2006, they were equivalent to or near the state levels (see **Table 1-33**). More recent data shown in **Table 1-35** indicates that median household incomes for cities or counties in the ROI are generally higher than Texas and New Mexico.

There is still heavy reliance on basic sector employment in the ROI, and jobs requiring higher educational attainment constitute a lower percentage of employment in the ROI compared to the states. The primary industries within the ROI are agricultural and mining based. Educational and health-related industries are very prevalent, along with trade-related industries. There appears to be

a rural-urban differentiation, whereby in the ROI's larger cities there is more similarity in income and employment stratification to state averages. Housing is somewhat less expensive in the ROI than in Texas or New Mexico as a whole.

With some exceptions, the ROI is economically interdependent, with most residents working in or near their residence and evidently within the ROI, given that most travel 25 minutes or less for work. The public sector has benefited greatly by tax payments from oil and gas royalties and ad valorem taxes resulting in a greater level of educational resources, hospital availability, and emergency response resources than would exist in similar regional economies dependent upon less lucrative industries. As a result of WCS' investment in the Andrews County as the host community as well, the ROI has benefitted in terms of economics and related development of community resources and infrastructure.

## 1.4 HISTORIC, SCENIC, CULTURAL, AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

### 1.4.1 Historic Resources

Historic resources include buildings, structures, objects, and non-archeological sites and districts that are important in the history of a community, a region, a state, or the nation. The proposed licensing activities are regulated by the NRC; the project is therefore subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for direct impacts is the project footprint. Taking into consideration the height of the crane that would be required, the height of the potential above-ground facility, and the relatively flat surrounding terrain, the APE for indirect/visual impacts is a 1-mile radius from the proposed project footprint. WCS anticipates that the NRC will issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement and License by April 1, 2019. Therefore, a historic-age date of 1974 (45 years prior to 2019) is proposed. The direct effects APE is contained entirely within the state of Texas, while the indirect effects APE extends into New Mexico. Therefore, coordination is underway with the State Historic Preservation Office for both states.

#### Direct Effects

A search of the Texas Historic Sites Atlas maintained by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) was conducted for previously identified Official State Historical Markers (OSHM), Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHL), properties or districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs), cemeteries, or other cultural resources that may have been previously recorded. No such resources were identified within the APE for direct effects. The nearest previously identified resource is the OSHM for Andrews County, located approximately 17 miles southeast of the project area. As the area containing the proposed project footprint is devoid of any standing structures, the proposed project would not result in a direct effect to any non-archeological historic resources.

**Indirect Effects**

A search of the THC Atlas indicates that there are also no previously identified historic-resources in Texas within the 1-mile APE for indirect effects. A search of the New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System (NMCRIS) database administered by the Archeological Records Management Section (ARMS) of the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (NMHPD) will be undertaken and results will be provided at a future date.

The area is surrounded by a high density of oil wells to the west and some oil wells to the north; there is little development to the south and east, excluding portions of the existing WCS facility. The first development at the WCS facility was constructed in the late 1990s; none of the development is historic-age. Adjacent to the WCS facility to the west is a large uranium enrichment plant called the National Enrichment Facility, operated by URENCO. This facility was developed within the past 15 years. The proposed project area is located in a very remote area of Texas with little development aside from the non-historic age WCS and URENCO facilities. There do not appear to be any historic resources 45 years or older (dating to 1974 or earlier) within the 1-mile indirect effects APE.

The nearest developed area is Eunice, New Mexico, which is located approximately five miles west of the proposed site. There are two large visual obstructions between viewers in Eunice and the proposed crane at the site: red soil mounds approximately 100 feet in height on WCS property, and the URENCO facility. Based on information from WCS, the soil mounds will be in place indefinitely or potentially utilized as fill. Excluding the crane, the CISF storage facility would be approximately 30 feet above the surface and less visible from Eunice than existing features and structures.

On June 1, 2015, THC concurred with the recommendation that no further survey is required for historic resources and project may proceed (see Appendix D, Texas Historical Commission Coordination Letters and Archeological Survey Permit).

In addition, a coordination letter was submitted to New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office addressing historic and archeological resources in New Mexico. On August 12, 2015, the NMSHPO responded with concurrence that no additional cultural resources identification efforts were needed for the undertaking since all construction activities would be confined to Texas (see Appendix D).

## 1.4.2 Archeological Resources

A search of the *Texas Archeological Sites Atlas* (Atlas) maintained by the THC and the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) was conducted in order to identify archeological sites, OSHMs, RTHLs, properties or districts listed on the NRHP, SALs, cemeteries, or other cultural resources that may have been previously recorded in or near the archeological APE, as well as previous surveys undertaken in the area. With the current APE defined as the proposed 140-acre construction footprint, no previously recorded resources were found in the APE or near it. The nearest known archeological site in Texas is over 3.7 miles away.

One previous survey was found in the records search. The southern half of the current APE appears to have been included in a 1994 archeological survey by Galván Eling Associates, Inc., with only minor finds (six pieces of burned caliche) that the THC agreed did not merit further work (Galván Eling Associates, Inc. 1994; THC 2015). In 2004, URS Corporation contacted the THC on behalf of WCS regarding development of a portion of the Galván Eling 1994 survey area that had not been developed between 1994 and 2004. The THC concurred that no further work was required on June 25, 2004.

Although the APE is located entirely within Texas, CMEC has also requested access to the NMCRIS database. Access to ARMS records is currently pending and the results of an ARMS search will be included in the background research section of draft and final archeological survey reports to be prepared in 2015 (see below).

Because of the ambiguity in older survey maps, the lack of full coverage under the previous survey, and the fact that the Galván Eling study was conducted over 20 years ago, prior to the THC's development of minimum survey standards, WCS elected to scope a survey of the entire new facility footprint. An intensive archeological survey meeting current THC standards was conducted, and the results were presented in a draft report to be submitted to WCS, Andrews County, and the THC. No sites were found. The draft archeological survey report under Texas Antiquities Permit 7277 was submitted to the THC on July 2, 2015. Following THC's 30-day review of the draft report, the final report incorporating regulatory comments was prepared and submitted to the THC, who concurred No Historic Properties Affected – Project May Proceed on July 29, 2015. Copies were prepared for submittal to designated state repositories to close the Antiquities Permit (see Appendix D, Texas Historical Commission Coordination Letters and Archeological Survey Permit).

### 1.4.3 Scenic Resources

According to the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) – Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (1986), visual resources consist of landscape or visual character, and visual sensitivity and exposure. A study area's landscape features include landform, vegetation, water resource features, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications (that either add to or detract from visual quality). The overall impression of an area, composed of the elements above, is referred to as the "visual character." For this analysis, the visual character of the area is focused on the perspective of residents living in close proximity to the proposed facility who would be affected by the continued operations, and the perspective of the driving public (along roads within the visual resources study area). However, since the closest residence is approximately four miles away from the facility, the majority of the analysis is geared toward the driving public.

The environmental team analyzed whether the following features exist or are likely to exist within 10 miles of the facility:

- landform (elevated views, hilltops, vegetation (woodlands)
- water (stream crossings, bridges, wetlands, pastoral scenes, wildlife viewing potential)
- scarcity (known scarcity of wildlife habitat, vegetation, or cultural resource)
- cultural modifications (urbanized areas, historic structures, visual detractors)

In accordance with DOI and BLM guidance, a photo inventory of the scenic qualities of the WCS facility was conducted on April 7 and 8, 2015. This study included views from as far as 15 miles from the WCS project. Views were captured to illustrate several zones: foreground, middle ground, background, and seldom-seen. This inventory replicated photos taken for the WCS licensing efforts in 2007 and 2008 for the low-level hazardous waste disposal license. The study team was interested in learning what has changed in the landscape over the last seven years.

The Scenic Resources Inventory is located in **Appendix C**, **Figures C-1 and C-2**, and **photos 1–14**. Each photo is labeled with the direction in relation to the facility, whether it represents foreground, middle ground, background, or seldom-seen views, and approximate distance from the center point of the proposed CISF facility on the WCS property. The foreground and middle ground views are taken from locations less than three to five miles from the facility, with several mid-ground range photos just beyond the 5-mile radius. This zone includes the road cut for State Highway 176 (SH 176), which creates berms that intermittently obscure views beyond the roadway and then open up views to the various landfills in the vicinity and to the sole urbanized area of Eunice, approximately five miles to the west of the facility. The background zone includes views from locations between five and ten miles away (see **photos 11 and 13**). These views are from generally flatter terrain allowing broader views across the landscape. These broader views take in oil-extraction structures (pump jacks, tanks and fence lines) in the foreground and a combination of constructed landscape forms (i.e., landfill and extraction facility earth mound(s) and naturally occurring swales. The seldom-seen views were from locations that are farther than ten miles away or otherwise hidden from view (see **Photo 12**). The WCS facility is barely seen from this distance, with the most prominent features of the facility (the redbeds) hardly registering as more than an undulation in the horizon. Adjacent to the WCS facility to the west in New Mexico is a large uranium enrichment plant called the National Enrichment Facility, operated by URENCO. This facility was developed and constructed since the last visual resources inventory was conducted. This facility is the most substantial new structure on the visual landscape. The relationship of WCS to URENCO is shown on **Figure C-1**. Photo locations are shown on **Figure C-2** along with a 5-mile radius and a 10-mile radius around the site. The proposed CISF activities would take place beyond the existing railroad spur on the WCS property, farthest from SH 176 compared to other current activities at the site.

It was determined that the visual resources study area does not contain notable representations of any of the landscape features listed above, although the relative lack of visual obstructions to a vast view of this section of the West Texas/East New Mexico landscape could be considered the "visual character" of the area. Overall, the entire study area can be considered to have modest scenic quality that is pleasant to regard for its rural, undeveloped nature, but not dramatic, unique or rare. Facilities geared towards resources extraction, the Lea County Landfill, and oil well pump jacks exist in the project area, in addition to the URENCO facility, which have an equal or higher impact on the visual landscape compared to the proposed new CISF activities at the WCS facility.

## 1.4.4 Agricultural Production

### 1.4.4.1 Andrews County

The 2012 Census of Agriculture (USDA 2012) reports that Andrews County had 169 farms in 2012, down three percent from 175 farms in 2007. These farms amounted to 752,030 acres in 2012, and 808,474 acres in 2007, down seven percent. The average size farm in the county was 4,450 acres in 2012, and 4,620 acres in 2007.

The market value of agricultural production was $12,578,000 in 2012, and $15,919,000 in 2007, down 21 percent. Crop sales accounted for $5,819,000 of the total value in 2012, while livestock sales accounted for $6,758,000 of the total market value. Andrews County is not a leading agricultural producer in Texas, ranking 210 out of 254 counties in market value of agricultural products statewide in 2012.

**Table 1-37** presents the agricultural data for the year 2012 from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Census of Agriculture, County Profile for Andrews County. No tobacco; nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod; cut Christmas trees and short duration woody crops; aquaculture; or milk production was reported in the county in 2012.

| Table 1-37: Value of Agricultural Products in Andrews County, 2012 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold** | | | |
| **Item** | **Quantity ($1,000)** | **State Rank** | **US Rank** |
| Total value of agricultural products sold | 12,578 | 210 | 2,585 |
| Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse | 5,819 | 174 | 2,356 |
| Value of livestock, poultry, and their products | 6,758 | 208 | 2,341 |
| **Value of Sales by commodity Group** | | | |
| **Item** | **Quantity ($1,000)** | **State Rank** | **US Rank** |
| Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas | 1,424 | 138 | 2,150 |
| Cotton and cottonseed | 2,241 | 90 | 358 |
| Fruits, tree nuts, and berries | 60 | 173 | 1,676 |
| Other Crops and Hay | 2,094 | 132 | 1,303 |
| Cattle and Calves | 6,240 | 194 | 1,656 |
| Hogs and Pigs | * | * | * |
| Sheep, Goats and Their Products | 422 | 56 | 395 |
| Horses, Ponies, Mules, Burros, and Donkeys | 75 | 204 | 2,046 |

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. County Profile, Andrews County, Texas (2012).

*Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operators.

The top livestock inventory items in 2012 in Andrews County included 10,177 cattle and calves, 622 goats, 337 horses and ponies, and 146 sheep and lambs. Cotton was the leading crop in terms of acreage with 8,248 acres, followed by sorghum for grain with 3,856 acres, forage with 1,236 acres, and peanuts with 1,227 acres.

There is no agricultural activity within one mile of the existing WCS facility based on aerial interpretation and land use data. The majority of the land within five miles of the facility is grassland, pasture, and shrublands, with minor outparcels of barren, developed, and alfalfa production.

#### 1.4.4.2 Lea County

The 2012 Census of Agriculture reports that Lea County, New Mexico, had 460 farms in 2012, down from 572 in 2007. The land in farms in the county was 1,981,988 acres in 2012, down from 2,365,168 acres in 2007. The average size farm in the county was 4,309 acres in 2012, compared to 4,135 acres in 2007.

The market value of agricultural production was $188,926,000 in 2012 and $93,644,000 in 2007, down 50 percent. Crop sales accounted for 22 percent of the total value in 2012, while livestock sales accounted for 78 percent of the total market value. Lea County ranked fifth out of 33 counties in New Mexico for the market value of agricultural products statewide in 2012.

**Table 1-38** presents the agricultural data for the year 2012 from the USDA's, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Census of Agriculture, County Profile for Lea County. No tobacco, cut Christmas trees and short duration woody crops, or aquaculture was reported in the county in 2012.

**Table 1-38: Value of Agricultural Products in Lea County, 2012**

| Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Item** | **Quantity ($1,000)** | **State Rank** | **US Rank** |
| Total value of agricultural products sold | 188,926 | 5 | 582 |
| Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse | 40,738 | 5 | 1,280 |
| Value of livestock, poultry, and their products | 148,188 | 5 | 274 |
| **Value of Sales by commodity Group** | | | |
| **Item** | **Quantity ($1,000)** | **State Rank** | **US Rank** |
| Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas | * | 7 | * |
| Cotton and cottonseed | 14,805 | 1 | 120 |
| Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes | * | 4 | * |
| Fruits, tree nuts, and berries | 793 | 8 | 548 |
| Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod | 411 | 11 | 1,444 |
| Other Crops and Hay | 9,812 | 7 | 295 |
| Milk from cows | 115,888 | 5 | 61 |
| Poultry and eggs | * | * | * |
| Cattle and Calves | 30,468 | 7 | 519 |
| Hogs and Pigs | * | * | * |
| Sheep, Goats and Their Products | 119 | 14 | 1,212 |
| Horses, Ponies, Mules, Burros, and Donkeys | 948 | 7 | 269 |
| Other animals and other animal products | 757 | 5 | 316 |

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. County Profile, Lea County, Texas (2012).
* Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operators.

The top livestock inventory items in 2012 in Lea County included 84,950 cattle and calves, 1,952 horses and ponies, and 1,475 sheep and lambs. Cotton was the leading crop in terms of acreage with 19,589 acres, followed by forage with 16,892 acres, corn for silage with 9,738 acres and wheat for grain with 3,282 acres.

# 2.0 SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The characterization of the CISF's social, demographic and economic impacts on the ROI is based upon an economic impact analysis conducted for ISP's CISF using the IMPLAN economic modeling tool, plus a discussion of anticipated employment during its construction and operations phase. (A summary of the transportation impact assessment is found in a separate report. The discussion of the potential cumulative impacts resulting from this facility and other operations on the WCS property is also in a separate technical report.)

## 2.1 BACKGROUND: GENERIC EIS FINDINGS

In September 2014, the NRC published a generic assessment of potential impacts of continued storage of spent nuclear fuel, *Generic Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel (NUREG-2157)*. The document relied on the license issued by NRC to Private Fuel Storage, LLC (PFS) to construct and operate a facility on the Reservation of the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians in Tooele County, Utah. While the project has not moved forward, the NRC considers the PFS EIS to be a reasonable assessment of potential impacts of away-from-reactor storage of spent nuclear fuel.

For short-term storage activities, the GEIS determined that there would be incremental changes to offsite services to support construction activities. Additionally, relatively few workers would move to the area permanently given the short duration of the construction phase. Impacts to housing and public services would be considered minor. Direct employment impacts on the regional economy would occur as would indirect impacts, such as purchases of goods by workers in the local community. Indirect and induced jobs would likely be filled by local residents.

The GEIS discusses anticipated employment related to operations. Some of the workers employed to operate the CISF facility would be expected to move into the area with their families. According to the GEIS, (based on the PFS analysis), a relatively small number of operations workers would move into the area and the impact on housing, public services, and the local and regional economy would be considered minor. The analysis that follows provides modeled impacts, which suggest the proposed CISF will have a substantive impact on the Andrew County economy.

With regard to impacts to local and state government, tax payments would be received from the CISF licensee. The impact would depend on many factors including the local economy. The magnitude of the tax impact would be relative to the size and overall health of the local and regional economy. In the case of PSF, the tax impacts would be significantly beneficial to the host community; the ISP facility would be constructed in an area with a more established economy and therefore would contribute a smaller overall percentage of government tax revenues.

For short-term storage, the GEIS discussed the PFS' conclusion that the socioeconomic impacts of construction and operation of an away-from-reactor CISF would have a small socioeconomic

impact, especially given the sparse local population. NRC concluded that any away-from-reactor CISF would be similar to those described in the PFS EIS — potentially large beneficial economic impacts to rural communities with small adverse socioeconomic impacts due to increased demand for housing and public services.

The analysis that follows assesses the potential economic impacts of the proposed action on Andrews County, Texas, which is the only county in the region directly impacted by the project.

## 2.2 IMPACT ANALYSIS METHODOLOGIES

This section will summarize the methodology used to conduct the economic impact assessment for the proposed facility. There have been two previous economic impact analyses conducted to permit two other facilities on the WCS property:

- Waste Control Specialists LLC, 2007. Socioeconomic Impacts of the Waste Control Specialists Proposed Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility, Andrews County, Texas, March 16, 2007; and
- Waste Control Specialists LLC, 2008. Socioeconomic Impacts of the Waste Control Specialists Radioactive Material Storage and Processing Facility, Andrews County, Texas for the Renewal of License No. R04971, July 3, 2008.

The analysis in this section does not incorporate the economic impacts of the facilities listed above. Another difference with the previous studies is that this study does not utilize the RIMS II Economic Multipliers to assess the facility's direct, indirect, and final economic impacts during the initial construction period or during the ongoing operations phase.[1] The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has since discontinued supporting the RIMS II model, so this analysis was performed using the IMPLAN model. In addition to also being an input-output economic analysis tool, the IMPLAN model provides greater analytical detail and is more frequently updated. The IMPLAN model will be the tool that provides insight into how the proposed construction and operational activities may affect the ROI.

### 2.2.1 IMPLAN Economic Multipliers

IMPLAN stands for "IMpact analysis for PLANning" and consists of the data and software created by MIG, Inc. Originally developed for the U.S. Forest Service, IMPLAN is now privately owned and supported. IMPLAN uses input-output analysis in combination with region-specific social accounting matrices and multiplier models to determine the potential economic impacts of a defined activity on the regional economy. The data in the IMPLAN model contain county, state, zip code, and federal economic statistics that are specialized by region. The multiplier tools within IMPLAN can be used to estimate the secondary impacts, stemming from an economic change, such as investment of construction dollars or the outlay of the operational expenses.

[1] The resulting analyses from these two previous studies are on file with WCS and the licensing entities.

There are three types of effects measured with a multiplier: the direct, the indirect, and the induced effects. IMPLAN provides the following definitions in its glossary of terms on the company website (https://implan.com/index.php?option=com_glossary&task=list&letter=F&Itemid=1866).

| Table 2-1: Definitions of Economic Effects Based on Using the IMPLAN Model | |
|---|---|
| **Direct effects** | The set of expenditures applied to the predictive model (i.e., I/O multipliers) for impact analysis. It is a series (or single) of production changes or expenditures made by producers/consumers as a result of an activity or policy. These initial changes are determined by an analyst to be a result of this activity or policy. Applying these initial changes to the multipliers in an IMPLAN model will then display how the region will respond, economically to these initial changes. |
| **Indirect effects** | The impact of local industries buying goods and services from other local industries. The cycle of spending works its way backward through the supply chain until all money leaks from the local economy, either through imports or by payments to value added. The impacts are calculated by applying Direct Effects to the Type I Multipliers. |
| **Induced effects** | The response by an economy to an initial change (direct effect) that occurs through re-spending of income received by a component of value added. IMPLAN's default multiplier recognizes that labor income (employee compensation and proprietor income components of value added) is not a leakage to the regional economy. This money is recirculated through the household spending patterns causing further local economic activity. |

For the CISF analysis, a regional input-output model was built using data for Andrews County, Texas. This single county was the unit of analysis with the IMPLAN model.

The IMPLAN model's baseline characteristics for Andrews County, Texas, are summarized below in **Table 2-2**. The estimated population of the region was 17,722 residents organized into 6,093 households, with 10,144 workers. The county's land area is almost 1,501 square miles, and it had a gross regional product that exceeded $1.2 billion in 2017. The county's top industry for employment was *Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations*, with 1,146 workers, who collectively earned more than $92.4 million in labor income.[2] The *Extraction of Natural Gas and Crude Petroleum* sector was the second largest employer with approximately 759 workers, followed by *Local Government (Non-education),* which employed 671 persons during 2017.

Various components of these regional data are considered later in this discussion, in order to give additional perspective on the impact of the proposed facility on the analysis region.

[2] Note that in the IMPLAN model, according to their glossary of terms, labor income is defined as "All forms of employment income, including Employee Compensation (wages and benefits) and Proprietor Income."

**Table 2-2: IMPLAN Model – Economic Overview for Andrews County, Texas Economic Analysis Region**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Model Information** | | | |
| Model Year | 2017 | **Value Added** | |
| GRP | $1,248,796,954 | Employee Compensation | $558,553,714 |
| Total Personal Income | $817,035,800 | Proprietor Income | $155,486,915 |
| Total Employment | 10144 | Other Property Type Income | $417,442,845 |
| | | Tax on Production and Import | $695,457,582 |
| Number of Industries | 151 | | |
| Land Area (Sq. Miles) | 1,501 | Total Value Added | $1,248,796,954 |
| Area Count | 1 | | |
| | | **Final Demand** | |
| Population | 17,722 | Households | $704,663,888 |
| Total Households | 6,093 | State/Local Government | $181,301,071 |
| Average Household Income | $134,092 | Federal Government | $3,632,737 |
| | | Capital | $400,748,215 |
| Trade Flows Method | Trade Flows Model | Exports | $1,160,400,962 |
| Model Status | Multipliers | Imports | ($1,065,644,333) |
| | | Institutional Sales | ($136,305,588) |
| **Economic Indicators** | | | |
| Shannon-Weaver Index | 0.63743 | Total Final Demand: | $1,248,796,952 |

**Top Ten Industries**

| Sector | Description | Employment | Labor Income | Output |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 38 | Support activities for oil and gas operations | 1,146 | $92,417,220 | $147,518,500 |
| 20 | Extraction of natural gas and crude petroleum | 759 | $112,599,100 | $295,754,600 |
| 533 | * Employment and payroll of local govt, non-education | 671 | $45,547,980 | $54,423,990 |
| 534 | * Employment and payroll of local govt, education | 534 | $32,845,130 | $39,219,500 |
| 395 | Wholesale trade | 424 | $40,666,700 | $122,550,900 |
| 411 | Truck transportation | 388 | $33,435,070 | $74,400,980 |
| 37 | Drilling oil and gas wells | 383 | $44,220,760 | $143,493,400 |
| 502 | Limited-service restaurants | 223 | $5,021,095 | $20,122,860 |
| 433 | Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation | 206 | $14,268,120 | $48,728,850 |
| 58 | Construction of other new nonresidential structures | 186 | $14,566,820 | $31,177,730 |

**Areas in the Model**

| | |
|---|---|
| Texas | Andrews County |



## 2.2.2 Socioeconomic Impact Analysis

The evaluation of the potential social impacts of the CISF considered residents and communities located within Andrews County, Texas (see **Figure 1**). The social impact analysis in this section relies largely on demographic data laid out in **Chapter 1**. Additionally, this section summarizes the results from the IMPLAN model for the construction phase and operations phase impacts.

To assess the relative magnitude of the impacts within the IMPLAN model's analysis region, the guidelines from the NRC (1996) and the DOE (1999) — documented in the URENCO Environmental Report — were used. These measures were used to assess the levels of socioeconomic impact:

- Employment/economic activity impacts (Geography analyzed: three-county economic analysis region)
    - Small = <0.1% increase in employment
    - Moderate = 0.1 – 1.0 percent increase in employment
    - Large = > 1.0 percent increase in employment
- Population/housing impacts (Geography analyzed: 30-mile ROI)
    - Small = <0.1 % increase in population growth and/or <20% of vacant housing units required to accommodate people moving to the area
    - Moderate = 0.1 – 1.0% increase in population growth and/or 20–50% of vacant housing units required to accommodate people moving to the area
    - Large = >1% increase in population growth and/or >50% of vacant housing units required to accommodate people moving to the area
- Public Revenue impacts (Geography analyzed: three-county economic analysis region)
    - Small = <0.1% increase in local revenues
    - Moderate = 1 - 5% increase in local revenues
    - Large = >5% increase in local revenues

## 2.3 IMPACTS OF FACILITY CONSTRUCTION

ISP has estimated the cost of constructing the first phase of the CISF to be roughly $198.3 million. This amount includes all licensing, engineering, design, excavation and grading, fencing, security system costs, administrative and support buildings, handling equipment, plus constructing storage pads for the storage systems that will hold the first 5,000 MTU (427 casks). These figures assume Phase 1 under the "full build-out" scenario, with successive phases, versus the Phase 1 only scenarios that would stop at 406 canisters. This figure does not include the costs of constructing the concrete overpacks. Using this estimate, the IMPLAN model analyzed the economic impacts of construction (in nominal dollars), assuming all expenditures ($198.3 million) occurred during 2020. The construction of the ISF required different types of constructions and activities (e.g., engineering and design work), so the activities were entered into the model in several different categories. In some cases, the Andrews County model did not have an existing industry sector, so those activities were entered under a closely related industry sector. As proposed, Phase 1 could provide capacity for approximately seven years of canister transfers. If the demand exists, additional phases of the project would be constructed, up to eight phases. Under the current assumptions, the construction costs for the additional phases would primarily consist of building additional concrete pads for spent fuel storage (not modeled).

**Table 2-3** provides an overview of the economic impacts generated by the $198.3 million that will be spent on the facility's construction. The direct effects of the construction include 555 jobs, $43,850,820 in labor income, and $54,560,291 in value-added output. [3] The indirect effects of the project's construction include 47 jobs, a labor income of $3,167,665, and a value-added output of approximately $5,355,599. The indirect effects output is anticipated to be approximately $15,361,192. Note that the IMPLAN model's estimate of value-added output means the difference between an industry's or an establishment's total output and the cost of intermediate inputs; it equals gross output (sales or receipts and other operating income, plus inventory change) minus intermediate inputs (consumption of goods and services purchased from other industries or imported). The induced effect resulting from construction would include 106.4 person-years of employment, $3,768,535 in labor income, approximately $9,023,529 value-added output, and $15,361,620 in total output.

**Table 2-3: Total Impact of Construction Phase (2020)**

| Impact Type | Person-Years Employment | Labor Income | Value Added | Output |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Direct Effect | 555.3 | 43,850,819.6 | 54,560,291.3 | 87,952,872.4 |
| Indirect Effect | 47.2 | 3,167,664.7 | 5,355,598.8 | 8,757,555.2 |
| Induced Effect | 106.4 | 3,768,050.2 | 9,023,529.4 | 15,361,192.3 |
| Total Effect | 708.9 | 50,786,534.5 | 68,939,419.5 | 112,071,619.8 |

Source: MIG, Inc. IMPLAN Model – Andrews County, TX. CMEC utilizing inputs from ISP.

**Table 2-4** shows the top ten industries benefiting from the project's construction in the modeled region by employment, labor income, value added, and output. The largest employment gains from the $198.3 million expenditure go to *Sector 53 – Construction of New Manufacturing Structures* (244.3 jobs) followed by *Sector 56 – Construction of New Highways and Streets*. The industry sector with the highest labor income gain is also *Sector 53*, with more than $19.2 million in anticipated labor income, followed by *Sector 56 – Construction of New Highways and Streets* and *Sector 57 – Construction of New Commercial Structures, Including Farm Structures*. The estimated value-added output is greatest for *Sector 53 – Construction of New Manufacturing Structures* and *Sector 57 – Construction of New Commercial Structures, Including Farm Structures*. Total output is also highest in *Sector 53 – Construction of New Manufacturing Structures* and *Sector 57 – Construction of New Commercial Structures, Including Farm Structures*. Note that a number of industries in the local economy could benefit from the proposed construction.

[3] It is important for the reader to understand that the IMPLAN model's definition of a "job" is one person employed for one year or a "person-year" of employment. This definition of employment may include a person without a job, who is hired for a year, or a person with a job, who retains it for another year. The definition of a "job" in the IMPLAN model does not mean that one person finds continuous long-term employment. Thus, the estimated employment effect of constructing the WCS CISF is a total of 709 person years of employment.

| Table 2-4: Construction Phase (2020) – Top Ten by Category | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sector** | **Description** | **Total Employment** | **Total Labor Income** | **Total Value Added** | **Total Output** |
| **TOP TEN INDUSTRIES - EMPLOYMENT** | | | | | |
| 53 | Construction of new manufacturing structures | 244.3 | $19,230,279 | $23,719,036 | $36,060,407 |
| 57 | Construction of new commercial structures, including farm structures | 180.9 | $14,209,962 | $17,897,528 | $28,781,298 |
| 58 | Construction of other new nonresidential structures | 65.3 | $5,174,891 | $6,787,678 | $11,126,446 |
| 56 | Construction of new highways and streets | 40.1 | $3,193,173 | $4,147,533 | $8,123,646 |
| 449 | Architectural, engineering, and related services | 27.7 | $2,291,828 | $2,253,681 | $4,332,367 |
| 502 | Limited-service restaurants | 10.2 | $231,145 | $545,828 | $926,629 |
| 395 | Wholesale trade | 9.7 | $939,011 | $2,081,975 | $2,816,205 |
| 501 | Full-service restaurants | 7.9 | $130,461 | $152,869 | $341,556 |
| 411 | Truck transportation | 6.5 | $564,382 | $686,735 | $1,251,781 |
| 433 | Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation | 6.3 | $444,298 | $799,924 | $1,506,532 |
| **TOP TEN INDUSTRIES - LABOR INCOME** | | | | | |
| 53 | Construction of new manufacturing structures | 244.3 | $19,230,279 | $23,719,036 | $36,060,407 |
| 57 | Construction of new commercial structures, including farm structures | 180.9 | $14,209,962 | $17,897,528 | $28,781,298 |
| 58 | Construction of other new nonresidential structures | 65.3 | $5,174,891 | $6,787,678 | $11,126,446 |
| 56 | Construction of new highways and streets | 40.1 | $3,193,173 | $4,147,533 | $8,123,646 |
| 449 | Architectural, engineering, and related services | 27.7 | $2,291,828 | $2,253,681 | $4,332,367 |
| 395 | Wholesale trade | 9.7 | $939,011 | $2,081,975 | $2,816,205 |
| 411 | Truck transportation | 6.5 | $564,382 | $686,735 | $1,251,781 |
| 433 | Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation | 6.3 | $444,298 | $799,924 | $1,506,532 |
| 502 | Limited-service restaurants | 10.2 | $231,145 | $545,828 | $926,629 |
| 504 | Automotive repair and maintenance, except car washes | 3.7 | $224,855 | $303,561 | $435,589 |
| **TOP TEN INDUSTRIES - VALUE ADDED** | | | | | |
| 53 | Construction of new manufacturing structures | 244.3 | $19,230,279 | $23,719,036 | $36,060,407 |
| 57 | Construction of new commercial structures, including farm structures | 180.9 | $14,209,962 | $17,897,528 | $28,781,298 |
| 58 | Construction of other new nonresidential structures | 65.3 | $5,174,891 | $6,787,678 | $11,126,446 |
| 56 | Construction of new highways and streets | 40.1 | $3,193,173 | $4,147,533 | $8,123,646 |
| 441 | Owner-occupied dwellings | 0.0 | $0 | $2,699,500 | $4,127,713 |
| 449 | Architectural, engineering, and related services | 27.7 | $2,291,828 | $2,253,681 | $4,332,367 |
| 395 | Wholesale trade | 9.7 | $939,011 | $2,081,975 | $2,816,205 |
| 433 | Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation | 6.3 | $444,298 | $799,924 | $1,506,532 |
| 411 | Truck transportation | 6.5 | $564,382 | $686,735 | $1,251,781 |

| Table 2-4: Construction Phase (2020) – Top Ten by Category | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sector** | **Description** | **Total Employment** | **Total Labor Income** | **Total Value Added** | **Total Output** |
| 445 | Commercial and industrial machinery and equipment rental and leasing | 2.7 | $216,149 | $658,438 | $887,255 |
| **TOP TEN INDUSTRIES - OUTPUT** | | | | | |
| 53 | Construction of new manufacturing structures | 244.3 | $19,230,279 | $23,719,036 | $36,060,407 |
| 57 | Construction of new commercial structures, including farm structures | 180.9 | $14,209,962 | $17,897,528 | $28,781,298 |
| 58 | Construction of other new nonresidential structures | 65.3 | $5,174,891 | $6,787,678 | $11,126,446 |
| 56 | Construction of new highways and streets | 40.1 | $3,193,173 | $4,147,533 | $8,123,646 |
| 449 | Architectural, engineering, and related services | 27.7 | $2,291,828 | $2,253,681 | $4,332,367 |
| 441 | Owner-occupied dwellings | 0.0 | $0 | $2,699,500 | $4,127,713 |
| 395 | Wholesale trade | 9.7 | $939,011 | $2,081,975 | $2,816,205 |
| 433 | Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation | 6.3 | $444,298 | $799,924 | $1,506,532 |
| 411 | Truck transportation | 6.5 | $564,382 | $686,735 | $1,251,781 |
| 502 | Limited-service restaurants | 10.2 | $231,145 | $545,828 | $926,629 |

Source: MIG, Inc. IMPLAN model — Andrews County, Texas. CMEC utilizing inputs from ISP.

When the CISF facility expands its storage capacity over time (eight phases are planned in total), there will be additional construction activities to build these future phases, namely the construction of concrete pads for transferred canisters. Even with this initial investment, the analysis of economic impacts shows the construction would be beneficial to the region from a direct, indirect, induced, and value-added output perspective.

The IMPLAN model estimates that 709 person-years of employment would be created through the construction project's direct, indirect, and induced effects. Total 2017 employment in the Andrews County region was 10,144 jobs. Assuming this employment occurs over a two-year construction period, it would be approximately a 0.4 percent increase to regional employment representing a "Moderate Effect," according to the previously discussed criteria. This employment estimate may represent a maximum impact, because there may not be enough construction workers in Andrews County to meet the need. Also, local construction workers may simply transfer to a new project within an existing firm, rather than represent a new hire. Additionally, because of the specialized nature of some of the work, it may be necessary to hire companies with appropriate experience located outside of Andrews County.

With regard to wages, the Texas Labor Market Information website provides employment and wage information by quarter by industry. Data for total employment and income by county is available, but wage information by county by industry is not available (the Bureau of Labor Statistics was queried for quarterly wage information for the non-residential building construction sector in Andrews County but the information was non-disclosable). According to wage data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the 2017 average annual pay in Andrews County's construction sector was $76,323 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019).

According to the IMPLAN model, Andrews County had an average annual income (including wages and benefits) of $71,669 in the new commercial construction sector (based on total labor income for the sector divided by the 112.4 direct jobs in the sector) during 2017.

## 2.4 IMPACTS OF FACILITY OPERATION

### 2.4.1 Employment Information for Current and Planned Operations

WCS provided information about employment based on current staff, as well as anticipated staffing needs to support CISF operations. As of spring 2015, on-site employment (at all WCS facilities) included the following positions:

- Accounting – 3 employees
- Administrative – 16 employees
- Business Development – 12 employees
- Canister Production Facility – 6 employees
- Engineering – 5 employees
- Environmental – 9 employees
- Field Administration – 15 employees
- Integrated Services – 12
- Laboratory – 3 employees
- Landfill – 7 employees
- Landfill CWF – 6 employees
- Landfill FWF – 12 employees
- Licensing – 4 employees
- Maintenance – 21 employees
- MWTF Treatment and Storage – 11 employees
- Quality Assurance – 4 employees
- Rad Safety – 27 employees
- Safety – 4 employees
- Security – 18 employees
- Various – 9 employees

The total number of employees working at the facility would be approximately 240 staff. Currently, there are 204 workers at the site, with 184 of those employees located at the site and the others being corporate employees. As of mid-2015, approximately 50 percent of the site employees lived in Texas and 50 percent lived in New Mexico. In Texas, most employees live in the city of Andrews and, in New Mexico, the workers are evenly split between residents of Hobbs and residents of Eunice. The average annual salary for WCS employees in 2015 dollars was $80,334. Employees specifically assigned to the CISF site would be an estimated 20 trained security officers. For the purposes of this analysis, it was assumed that the new jobs created by the CISF operations would be limited to 3 administrative staff, 20 security officers, 7 engineering and technical staff, and 6 maintenance and equipment staff. These counts are assumed in the benefit/cost analysis and subsequently the socioeconomic impact analysis.

### 2.4.2 Economic Impacts of Operations

ISP provided estimates of annual operating expenditures, not including transportation, professional services, or capital costs. The operating costs accounted for in the IMPLAN model consisted of the following: administration, the purchase of concrete overpacks, labor costs during loading and/or unloading, and labor costs during the caretaker period. Decommissioning costs for the facility are

not included. Table 2.5 shows the operating costs by category. The total operating costs over 40 years is $1.29 billion, which averages to $32.3 million per year.

**Table 2-5: Total Estimated Annual Operating Costs at CISF**

| Year | Utilities | Concrete Pads | Waste Management and Remediation | Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2020 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2021 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2022 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2023 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2024 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2025 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2026 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2027 | $1,101,825 | $33,330,203 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $42,334,316 |
| 2028 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2029 | $1,101,825 | $33,330,203 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $42,334,316 |
| 2030 | $1,101,825 | $60,600,368 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $69,604,481 |
| 2031 | $1,101,825 | $39,390,239 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $48,394,352 |
| 2032 | $1,101,825 | $33,330,203 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $42,334,316 |
| 2033 | $1,101,825 | $33,330,203 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $42,334,316 |
| 2034 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2035 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2036 | $1,101,825 | $33,330,203 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $42,334,316 |
| 2037 | $1,101,825 | $60,600,368 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $69,604,481 |
| 2038 | $1,101,825 | $6,060,037 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $15,064,150 |
| 2039 | $1,101,825 | $33,330,203 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $42,334,316 |
| 2040 | $1,101,825 | $60,600,368 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $69,604,481 |
| 2041 | $1,101,825 | $60,600,368 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $69,604,481 |
| 2042 | $1,101,825 | $45,450,276 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $54,454,389 |
| 2043 | $1,101,825 | $60,600,368 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $69,604,481 |
| 2044 | $1,101,825 | $60,600,368 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $69,604,481 |
| 2045 | $1,101,825 | $60,600,368 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $69,604,481 |
| 2046 | $1,101,825 | $60,600,368 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $69,604,481 |
| 2047 | $1,101,825 | $60,600,368 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $69,604,481 |
| 2048 | $1,101,825 | $60,600,368 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $69,604,481 |
| 2049 | $1,101,825 | $36,360,221 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $45,364,334 |
| 2050 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2051 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2052 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2053 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2054 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |

| Table 2-5: Total Estimated Annual Operating Costs at CISF | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Utilities | Concrete Pads | Waste Management and Remediation | Commercial and Industrial Machinery and Equipment | Total |
| 2055 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2056 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2057 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2058 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| 2059 | $1,101,825 | $0 | $5,009,998 | $2,892,290 | $9,004,113 |
| **TOTAL** | **$44,072,995** | **$933,245,673** | **$200,399,909** | **$115,691,612** | **$1,293,410,190** |

Source: MIG, Inc. IMPLAN model — Andrews County, Texas. CMEC utilizing inputs from ISP.

Once issued, the operating license for this facility would be valid for 40 years. To provide an overview of its regional economic impacts, the estimated annual operating expenditure was entered into the regional IMPLAN model. The activity or "event" year was set to 2020 for the first year of operations and the model was re-run for each event year over a 40-year period (2020–2059) which would represent the entire length of the initial license. The operating costs for the facility varied from year-to-year until 2050, when the CISF is assumed to reach full capacity. The primary variable expenditure is the construction of concrete pads which is determined by the availability of spent fuel for transfer and rail car capacity. The total estimated operating costs, by year, are shown in Table 2-5. Tables 2-6 through 2-9 provide the total employment, labor income, value-added output, and total output for the direct, indirect, induced, and total impacts. Table 2-10 provides a summary of the data for the entire period of the license.

| Table 2-6: Estimated Direct Impacts from Proposed Operations, 2020–2059 (2018 $) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Employment | Labor Income | Value Added | Output |
| 2020 | 55.7 | $6,662,169 | $9,676,914 | $13,348,040 |
| 2021 | 55.7 | $6,602,661 | $9,590,477 | $13,227,076 |
| 2022 | 55.7 | $6,543,685 | $9,504,814 | $13,107,277 |
| 2023 | 55.7 | $6,485,235 | $9,419,915 | $12,988,629 |
| 2024 | 55.7 | $6,427,308 | $9,335,774 | $12,871,122 |
| 2025 | 55.7 | $6,369,898 | $9,252,386 | $12,754,743 |
| 2026 | 55.7 | $6,313,001 | $9,169,742 | $12,639,482 |
| 2027 | 85.0 | $8,587,202 | $12,114,980 | $18,464,833 |
| 2028 | 55.7 | $6,200,727 | $9,006,661 | $12,432,701 |
| 2029 | 84.5 | $8,434,482 | $11,899,521 | $18,154,335 |
| 2030 | 107.6 | $10,215,348 | $14,204,209 | $22,723,385 |
| 2031 | 89.1 | $8,693,284 | $12,218,880 | $18,889,159 |
| 2032 | 83.8 | $8,210,480 | $11,583,495 | $17,698,486 |
| 2033 | 83.5 | $8,137,142 | $11,480,028 | $17,549,131 |
| 2034 | 55.7 | $5,875,744 | $8,534,618 | $11,832,812 |
| 2035 | 55.7 | $5,823,260 | $8,458,385 | $11,735,739 |
| 2036 | 82.8 | $7,921,036 | $11,175,143 | $17,108,688 |

| Table 2-6: Estimated Direct Impacts from Proposed Operations, 2020–2059 (2018 $) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Year** | **Employment** | **Labor Income** | **Value Added** | **Output** |
| 2037 | 104.4 | $9,593,493 | $13,339,535 | $21,399,219 |
| 2038 | 60.6 | $6,052,526 | $8,732,412 | $12,426,080 |
| 2039 | 82.1 | $7,710,670 | $10,878,354 | $16,679,457 |
| 2040 | 103.1 | $9,338,710 | $12,985,264 | $20,855,880 |
| 2041 | 102.7 | $9,255,294 | $12,869,277 | $20,677,887 |
| 2042 | 90.7 | $8,246,662 | $11,551,616 | $18,145,719 |
| 2043 | 114.0 | $9,206,184 | $12,826,762 | $20,326,499 |
| 2044 | 101.5 | $9,009,493 | $12,527,496 | $20,153,076 |
| 2045 | 101.1 | $8,929,019 | $12,415,599 | $19,981,152 |
| 2046 | 100.7 | $8,849,263 | $12,304,700 | $19,810,712 |
| 2047 | 100.3 | $8,770,220 | $12,194,792 | $19,641,743 |
| 2048 | 99.4 | $8,593,061 | $11,699,563 | $18,704,583 |
| 2049 | 82.0 | $7,222,892 | $10,170,719 | $15,768,475 |
| 2050 | 55.7 | $5,089,988 | $7,393,295 | $10,373,345 |
| 2051 | 55.7 | $5,044,524 | $7,327,257 | $10,288,473 |
| 2052 | 55.7 | $4,999,465 | $7,261,809 | $10,204,310 |
| 2053 | 55.7 | $4,954,809 | $7,196,945 | $10,120,849 |
| 2054 | 55.7 | $4,910,552 | $7,132,660 | $10,038,086 |
| 2055 | 55.7 | $4,866,690 | $7,068,950 | $9,956,013 |
| 2056 | 55.7 | $4,823,220 | $7,005,809 | $9,874,626 |
| 2057 | 55.7 | $4,780,138 | $6,943,231 | $9,793,919 |
| 2058 | 55.7 | $4,737,441 | $6,881,213 | $9,713,885 |
| 2059 | 55.7 | $4,695,125 | $6,819,749 | $9,634,519 |
| **TOTAL** | **2,973.8** | **$283,182,098** | **$402,152,950** | **$602,094,147** |

| Table 2-7: Estimated Indirect Impacts from Proposed Operations, 2020–2059 (2018 $) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Year** | **Employment** | **Labor Income** | **Value Added** | **Output** |
| 2020 | 12.9 | $804,436 | $1,240,008 | $2,135,376 |
| 2021 | 12.8 | $797,310 | $1,229,001 | $2,116,434 |
| 2022 | 12.7 | $790,249 | $1,218,093 | $2,097,665 |
| 2023 | 12.6 | $783,251 | $1,207,285 | $2,079,066 |
| 2024 | 12.5 | $776,317 | $1,196,575 | $2,060,637 |
| 2025 | 12.3 | $769,446 | $1,185,962 | $2,042,375 |
| 2026 | 12.2 | $762,638 | $1,175,446 | $2,024,278 |
| 2027 | 17.3 | $1,101,210 | $1,778,964 | $3,040,120 |
| 2028 | 12.0 | $749,786 | $1,155,632 | $1,990,156 |
| 2029 | 17.0 | $1,082,331 | $1,748,408 | $2,987,917 |
| 2030 | 21.0 | $1,347,810 | $2,221,925 | $3,784,869 |

| Table 2-7: Estimated Indirect Impacts from Proposed Operations, 2020–2059 (2018 $) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Year** | **Employment** | **Labor Income** | **Value Added** | **Output** |
| 2031 | 17.7 | $1,124,298 | $1,825,984 | $3,117,804 |
| 2032 | 16.6 | $1,054,620 | $1,703,556 | $2,911,290 |
| 2033 | 16.5 | $1,045,542 | $1,688,863 | $2,886,188 |
| 2034 | 11.4 | $712,520 | $1,098,174 | $1,891,208 |
| 2035 | 11.3 | $706,492 | $1,088,880 | $1,875,203 |
| 2036 | 16.0 | $1,018,774 | $1,645,541 | $2,812,175 |
| 2037 | 19.8 | $1,268,073 | $2,090,204 | $3,560,563 |
| 2038 | 11.9 | $745,549 | $1,162,525 | $1,998,160 |
| 2039 | 15.6 | $992,693 | $1,603,333 | $2,740,063 |
| 2040 | 19.3 | $1,235,363 | $2,036,174 | $3,468,555 |
| 2041 | 19.1 | $1,224,649 | $2,018,477 | $3,438,418 |
| 2042 | 16.9 | $1,076,946 | $1,757,198 | $2,998,133 |
| 2043 | 18.8 | $1,203,499 | $1,983,544 | $3,378,928 |
| 2044 | 18.6 | $1,193,061 | $1,966,305 | $3,349,571 |
| 2045 | 18.5 | $1,182,715 | $1,949,216 | $3,320,470 |
| 2046 | 18.3 | $1,172,458 | $1,932,276 | $3,291,622 |
| 2047 | 18.2 | $1,162,290 | $1,915,483 | $3,263,024 |
| 2048 | 17.9 | $1,147,926 | $1,892,469 | $3,223,914 |
| 2049 | 14.7 | $936,240 | $1,516,098 | $2,589,892 |
| 2050 | 10.0 | $621,967 | $958,562 | $1,650,782 |
| 2051 | 9.9 | $616,706 | $950,452 | $1,636,815 |
| 2052 | 9.8 | $611,490 | $942,410 | $1,622,967 |
| 2053 | 9.7 | $606,319 | $934,437 | $1,609,236 |
| 2054 | 9.6 | $601,191 | $926,531 | $1,595,622 |
| 2055 | 9.6 | $596,106 | $918,692 | $1,582,123 |
| 2056 | 9.5 | $591,065 | $910,920 | $1,568,738 |
| 2057 | 9.4 | $586,067 | $903,214 | $1,555,467 |
| 2058 | 9.3 | $581,110 | $895,573 | $1,542,308 |
| 2059 | 9.2 | $576,196 | $887,997 | $1,529,261 |
| **TOTAL** | **568.7** | **$35,956,711** | **$57,460,387** | **$98,367,392** |

| Table 2-8: Estimated Induced Impacts from Proposed Operations, 2020–2059 (2018 $) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Year** | **Employment** | **Labor Income** | **Value Added** | **Output** |
| 2020 | 16.9 | $598,784 | $1,433,617 | $2,440,643 |
| 2021 | 16.8 | $593,440 | $1,420,824 | $2,418,862 |
| 2022 | 16.6 | $588,145 | $1,408,144 | $2,397,276 |

| Table 2-8: Estimated Induced Impacts from Proposed Operations, 2020–2059 (2018 $) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Year** | **Employment** | **Labor Income** | **Value Added** | **Output** |
| 2023 | 16.5 | $582,896 | $1,395,578 | $2,375,884 |
| 2024 | 16.3 | $577,695 | $1,383,125 | $2,354,683 |
| 2025 | 16.2 | $572,540 | $1,370,783 | $2,333,671 |
| 2026 | 16.0 | $567,431 | $1,358,551 | $2,312,848 |
| 2027 | 21.9 | $776,388 | $1,859,283 | $3,165,136 |
| 2028 | 15.7 | $557,396 | $1,334,526 | $2,271,947 |
| 2029 | 21.5 | $762,636 | $1,826,352 | $3,109,075 |
| 2030 | 26.2 | $926,290 | $2,218,525 | $3,776,586 |
| 2031 | 22.2 | $786,666 | $1,883,953 | $3,207,110 |
| 2032 | 21.0 | $742,465 | $1,778,046 | $3,026,842 |
| 2033 | 20.8 | $735,860 | $1,762,229 | $2,999,917 |
| 2034 | 14.9 | $528,345 | $1,264,972 | $2,153,535 |
| 2035 | 14.8 | $523,653 | $1,253,738 | $2,134,409 |
| 2036 | 20.2 | $716,397 | $1,715,620 | $2,920,571 |
| 2037 | 24.6 | $870,087 | $2,083,916 | $3,547,442 |
| 2038 | 15.4 | $545,076 | $1,305,103 | $2,221,826 |
| 2039 | 19.7 | $697,449 | $1,670,243 | $2,843,325 |
| 2040 | 23.9 | $847,057 | $2,028,756 | $3,453,544 |
| 2041 | 23.7 | $839,517 | $2,010,697 | $3,422,801 |
| 2042 | 21.1 | $747,021 | $1,789,059 | $3,045,549 |
| 2043 | 23.6 | $833,882 | $1,997,206 | $3,399,833 |
| 2044 | 23.1 | $817,296 | $1,957,476 | $3,332,204 |
| 2045 | 22.9 | $810,020 | $1,940,051 | $3,302,541 |
| 2046 | 22.7 | $802,809 | $1,922,781 | $3,273,142 |
| 2047 | 22.5 | $795,663 | $1,905,665 | $3,244,005 |
| 2048 | 22.0 | $780,291 | $1,868,871 | $3,181,363 |
| 2049 | 18.5 | $653,805 | $1,565,750 | $2,665,432 |
| 2050 | 12.9 | $458,068 | $1,096,715 | $1,867,088 |
| 2051 | 12.8 | $454,000 | $1,086,976 | $1,850,507 |
| 2052 | 12.7 | $449,969 | $1,077,323 | $1,834,073 |
| 2053 | 12.6 | $445,973 | $1,067,756 | $1,817,786 |
| 2054 | 12.5 | $442,012 | $1,058,273 | $1,801,643 |

| Table 2-8: Estimated Induced Impacts from Proposed Operations, 2020–2059 (2018 $) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Year** | **Employment** | **Labor Income** | **Value Added** | **Output** |
| 2055 | 12.4 | $438,087 | $1,048,875 | $1,785,643 |
| 2056 | 12.3 | $434,196 | $1,039,561 | $1,769,786 |
| 2057 | 12.2 | $430,340 | $1,030,329 | $1,754,069 |
| 2058 | 12.0 | $426,519 | $1,021,179 | $1,738,493 |
| 2059 | 11.9 | $422,731 | $1,012,111 | $1,723,054 |
| **TOTAL** | **722.5** | **$25,578,897** | **$61,252,537** | **$104,274,143** |

| Table 2-9: Estimated Total Impacts from Proposed Operations, 2020–2059 (2018 $) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Year** | **Employment** | **Labor Income** | **Value Added** | **Output** |
| 2020 | 85.6 | $8,065,389 | $12,350,540 | $17,924,059 |
| 2021 | 85.3 | $7,993,411 | $12,240,301 | $17,762,372 |
| 2022 | 85.0 | $7,922,078 | $12,131,051 | $17,602,218 |
| 2023 | 84.8 | $7,851,383 | $12,022,778 | $17,443,579 |
| 2024 | 84.5 | $7,781,320 | $11,915,474 | $17,286,441 |
| 2025 | 84.3 | $7,711,884 | $11,809,131 | $17,130,789 |
| 2026 | 84.0 | $7,643,070 | $11,703,740 | $16,976,608 |
| 2027 | 124.3 | $10,464,799 | $15,753,228 | $24,670,089 |
| 2028 | 83.5 | $7,507,909 | $11,496,819 | $16,694,804 |
| 2029 | 123.1 | $10,279,449 | $15,474,280 | $24,251,327 |
| 2030 | 154.8 | $12,489,448 | $18,644,659 | $30,284,840 |
| 2031 | 129.0 | $10,604,247 | $15,928,818 | $25,214,073 |
| 2032 | 121.3 | $10,007,565 | $15,065,096 | $23,636,618 |
| 2033 | 120.8 | $9,918,544 | $14,931,120 | $23,435,235 |
| 2034 | 82.1 | $7,116,609 | $10,897,764 | $15,877,555 |
| 2035 | 81.9 | $7,053,405 | $10,801,002 | $15,745,351 |
| 2036 | 119.0 | $9,656,208 | $14,536,304 | $22,841,434 |
| 2037 | 148.8 | $11,731,654 | $17,513,654 | $28,507,224 |
| 2038 | 87.9 | $7,343,151 | $11,200,040 | $16,646,065 |
| 2039 | 117.4 | $9,400,813 | $14,151,930 | $22,262,846 |
| 2040 | 146.4 | $11,421,130 | $17,050,195 | $27,777,979 |
| 2041 | 145.6 | $11,319,460 | $16,898,451 | $27,539,106 |
| 2042 | 128.7 | $10,070,629 | $15,097,873 | $24,189,400 |

| Table 2-9: Estimated Total Impacts from Proposed Operations, 2020–2059 (2018 $) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Year** | **Employment** | **Labor Income** | **Value Added** | **Output** |
| 2043 | 156.4 | $11,243,565 | $16,807,512 | $27,105,260 |
| 2044 | 143.2 | $11,019,850 | $16,451,277 | $26,834,852 |
| 2045 | 142.4 | $10,921,754 | $16,304,866 | $26,604,163 |
| 2046 | 141.7 | $10,824,530 | $16,159,756 | $26,375,477 |
| 2047 | 140.9 | $10,728,173 | $16,015,940 | $26,148,773 |
| 2048 | 139.4 | $10,521,278 | $15,460,904 | $25,109,860 |
| 2049 | 115.2 | $8,812,938 | $13,252,567 | $21,023,799 |
| 2050 | 78.7 | $6,170,024 | $9,448,572 | $13,891,215 |
| 2051 | 78.5 | $6,115,230 | $9,364,684 | $13,775,795 |
| 2052 | 78.3 | $6,060,924 | $9,281,542 | $13,661,350 |
| 2053 | 78.1 | $6,007,100 | $9,199,137 | $13,547,871 |
| 2054 | 77.9 | $5,953,755 | $9,117,465 | $13,435,350 |
| 2055 | 77.7 | $5,900,883 | $9,036,518 | $13,323,779 |
| 2056 | 77.5 | $5,848,481 | $8,956,290 | $13,213,150 |
| 2057 | 77.3 | $5,796,545 | $8,876,774 | $13,103,455 |
| 2058 | 77.1 | $5,745,070 | $8,797,966 | $12,994,685 |
| 2059 | 77.5 | $5,848,481 | $8,956,290 | $13,213,150 |
| **TOTAL** | **4,265.5** | **$344,872,135** | **$521,102,307** | **$805,061,999** |

| Table 2-10: Summary of Economic Impacts from Operations, 2020–2059 (2018 $) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Impact Type** | **Employment** | **Labor Income** | **Value Added** | **Output** |
| Direct Effect | 2,973.8 | $283,182,098 | $402,152,950 | $602,094,147 |
| Indirect Effect | 568.7 | $35,956,711 | $57,460,387 | $98,367,392 |
| Induced Effect | 722.5 | $25,578,897 | $61,252,537 | $104,274,143 |
| **Total Effect** | **4,265.5** | **$344,872,135** | **$521,102,307** | **$805,061,999** |

Overall, the IMPLAN model estimates that the CISF will create 4,265 person-years of employment over a 40-year period through the direct, indirect, and induced effects of the facility's operations. Over the 40-year period, the average annual direct, indirect, and induced total employment was 106.6 person-years of employment. Total employment in the Andrews County region of analysis was 10,144 in 2017. Therefore, the estimated 1.05% increase in employment represents a large positive effect. Household spending from the project, represented by the induced effect, would be substantial, adding more than 700 person-years of employment to the local economy over the 40-year license period and $25.6 million of household income.

According to the IMPLAN regional economic model for Andrews County, the average annual income (wages and benefits) for the hazardous waste disposal facilities sector (based on total labor income for the sector divided by the 157 direct jobs in the sector) was $91,923 (model year 2017). WCS stated that average income for WCS employees was $80,334 (2015). It appears that wages and benefits associated with waste disposal activities at WCS and in the economic analysis region exceed the average income for the sector at the State level. Likewise, the wages at WCS exceeds the *Waste Management and Remediation Services* sector (NAICS 562) statewide, which paid an annual average income of $69,108 in 2019 (Texas Workforce Commission 2019).

## 2.5 OTHER SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS

### 2.5.1 Competition for Labor and Wage Rates

The impacts of the CISF's operation on the regional labor market and wages can be assessed by relating its impact to regional employment characteristics. Taking Andrews County as representative of the local labor market conditions in the ROI, U.S. Census Bureau (ACS 2009–2013) data showed that out of 11,457 persons 16 years and over, approximately 5.9 percent were unemployed. In Gaines County, Texas, out of 12,468 persons, 5.8 percent were unemployed. These unemployment rates were much lower than the State of Texas' unemployment rate of 8.1 percent during the same period. In Lea County, New Mexico, out of 48,357 persons, approximately 8.4 percent were unemployed compared to 9.7 percent in New Mexico overall. See **Table 1-24** and **Table 1-26**. More recent information from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that the unemployment rates in the economic analysis region were currently lower than the rates available from the American Community Survey. As of April 2015, in Andrews County, out of 9,625 persons in the civilian labor force, approximately 274 (2.8 percent) were unemployed. In Gaines County during the same time period, out of 9,519 persons approximately 268 (2.8 percent) were unemployed. In Lea County, New Mexico, as of April 2015, out of 31,322 persons, there were 1,496 unemployed persons (approximately 4.8 percent).

### 2.5.2 Population and Housing

The population of the ROI, according to the 2010 decennial census and based on the total population of all counties with any portion of the county in the ROI, was 241,279 persons in Andrews, Ector, Gaines, and Winkler Counties in Texas and Lea County, New Mexico. The IMPLAN regional model's area of analysis (Andrews and Gaines Counties, Texas, and Lea County, New Mexico) estimated the region to have 103,782 persons, which may more accurately represent the ROI (see **Table 1-16**). (Ector County has only a small portion of its boundary within the 30-mile ROI and has a relatively large population of 137,130 residents). The majority of the employment impacts are expected to occur in Andrews County, Texas, and Lea County, New Mexico.

The WCS's June 2008 Socioeconomic Impact Assessment references an earlier study from 1996 that estimated approximately half of the future workers at the WCS facility would relocate to the region.

Other jobs would be filled locally with trained and experienced workers. Indirect and induced jobs could be filled by workers already residing in the ROI. A similar breakdown could be anticipated for the proposed spent fuel CISF activities.

The construction employment impact is estimated at approximately 82 person-years of direct employment (2018) and each year employment impact from operation is estimated to be approximately 29 person-years of employment. Therefore a total of 111 person-years of employment could be created in the first couple years. Because these figures represent only direct employment, if half of those workers moved to the ROI, then that would mean approximately 55 people. The IMPLAN model indicates a population of 103,782 in the region. That number of people (excluding other family members) would constitute approximately 0.053 percent of the population or a small impact, based on the criteria in the URENCO study.

Lea County had 2,683 vacant housing units and Andrews County had 555 vacant housing units in 2010 (see **Table 1-19**). Assuming those figures represent available vacancies, then 55 households seeking to purchase or rent housing units out of 3,238 available units constitutes 1.7 percent of the vacant units. This potential housing need generated by the CISF facility would constitute a small impact on housing according to the criteria in the URENCO study.

Currently, according to WCS, approximately half their employees live in Texas and the other half live in New Mexico. Travel time to work was examined. According to the American Community Survey, over the years 2009–2013, more than 18 percent of commuters in Andrews County traveled more than 45 minutes to reach their job sites compared to 14.8 percent in Texas overall (see **Table 1-31**). More than seven percent of commuters travelled 45 minutes or more to their jobs in Gaines County and Lea County. These existing journey-to-work patterns suggest that some workers who live up to 45 minutes away from the CISF facility might choose to commute there, if they obtained a job at the facility, rather than choosing to move closer to the facility. This may indicate that substantial in-migration of population to the ROI would not be anticipated from the facility's operation-related job growth. Based on 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data, approximately 12.0 percent of total housing units were vacant in Lea County and 10.6 percent of housing units were vacant in Andrews County (see **Table 1-18**). It does not appear that there would be an unmet demand for housing in the ROI created by the new spent fuel CISF project.

### 2.5.3 Changes in Land Value and Uses

The proposed ISP CISF is one component of a larger waste management plant that occupies 1,338 acres in the middle of approximately 14,400 acres owned by WCS in Andrews County, Texas. The land surrounding the facility is high plains scrub/brush land used for rangeland, limited dryland farming and oil and gas extraction. Since the continued operations at the processing and storage component of the facility would be entirely contained within the WCS property and adjacent uses are characterized by agricultural and resource extraction operations,

no negative impacts on proximal property values are expected as a result of the new facility operation.

The small to moderate employment impact described above and the subsequent demographic impact described below further suggests that real estate values in and around the City of Andrews will not be impacted adversely. The closest community to the CISF is Eunice, New Mexico. Eunice was once a small town characterized by older residential and commercial structures, vacant lots, a nearby gasoline plant, active oil and gas wells, pipelines, and related facilities. However, following the construction of the Louisiana Energy Services URENCO plant, employment in the Eunice area has increased and the city has experienced a surge of new development, including a new Main Street landscaped boulevard, in addition to several new businesses and restaurants. The URENCO Environmental Report estimated approximately 400 new jobs (8-year average) in the region associated with the plant's construction. In fact, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Eunice rose from 2,922 residents during the decennial census to 3,147 residents in 2014 according to American Factfinder.

The construction employment impact is estimated at approximately 555 person-years of direct employment (2020). Therefore a total of 709 person-years of employment could be directly created in the first couple years as a result of the ISP CISF. Indirect employment during construction is estimated to be approximately 47 person-years of employment while induced effects would be approximately 106 person-years of employment. Over the 40-year license (2020–2059), the direct, indirect, and induced person-years of employment associated with CISF operations are estimated to total 4,266 person-years of employment. Some indirect and induced employment would likely go to existing local residents rather than new workers moving into the area. The proposed CISF would likely have a positive effect on land values in the overall area, similar to the effects from construction of the URENCO facility.

### 2.5.4 Government Impacts to the Region of Interest

According to the IMPLAN model, various tax benefits would accrue to state and local governments, based on the economic activity associated with the construction phase of the spent nuclear fuel CISF facility. According to the IMPLAN model's Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) for Andrews County, the benefits to the region from government revenue collected from the proposed action and spent in the region would come in the form of direct effects (i.e., government jobs) and induced effects, namely impacts from the household spending of government employees. The Andrews County model contains no multipliers for indirect effects. At the state and local level, tax revenues from employee compensation are estimated to be $67,388 from the construction activities (**Table 2-11**). Taxes on production and imports would reach almost $2.1 million. Taxes generated by households would be approximately $1,088,683 and corporations would generate $28,096 in government revenue. At the federal level, employee compensation-generated tax revenues would exceed $5,389,646, plus $191,526 in proprietor income and $184,390 of tax on

production and imports. Households would generate $3.8 million in federal taxes and corporations would generate $725,793 in federal taxes.

| Table 2-11: Local, State, and Federal Estimated Tax Impacts of Construction (2018 $) | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CONSTRUCTION PHASE – 2020, $198.3M construction | | | | |
| **TAX IMPACT – STATE AND LOCAL** | | | | |
| Employee Compensation | Proprietor Income | Tax on Production and Imports | Households | Corporations |
| $67,338 | $0 | $2,089,511 | $1,088,683 | $28,096 |
| **TAX IMPACT – FEDERAL** | | | | |
| Employee Compensation | Proprietor Income | Tax on Production and Imports | Households | Corporations |
| $5,389,646 | $191,526 | $184,930 | $3,840,191 | $725,793 |

Source: MIG, Inc. IMPLAN model — Andrews County, Texas. CMEC utilizing inputs from ISP.

Once the facility begins operations, additional state and local tax revenues would be generated on an ongoing basis. Approximately $454,354 in employee compensation would be generated from 40 years of operations, along with $37,416,628 in taxes on production and imports (**Table 2-12**). Household taxes would be $7,321,769 and corporations would generate $237,175 in state and local taxes.

| Table 2-12: State and Local Estimated Tax Impacts of Operations, 2020–2059 (2018 $) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Year** | **Employee compensation** | **Proprietor Income** | **Tax on Production and Imports** | **Households** | **Corporations** | **Total Revenue** |
| 2020 | $10,776 | $0 | $1,001,908 | $171,123 | $5,595 | $1,189,402 |
| 2021 | $10,680 | $0 | $992,965 | $169,596 | $5,545 | $1,178,786 |
| 2022 | $10,585 | $0 | $984,101 | $168,082 | $5,495 | $1,168,263 |
| 2023 | $10,490 | $0 | $975,317 | $166,582 | $5,446 | $1,157,835 |
| 2024 | $10,397 | $0 | $966,611 | $165,095 | $5,398 | $1,147,501 |
| 2025 | $10,304 | $0 | $957,984 | $163,622 | $5,350 | $1,137,260 |
| 2026 | $10,212 | $0 | $949,433 | $162,162 | $5,302 | $1,127,109 |
| 2027 | $13,734 | $0 | $1,085,046 | $222,346 | $7,194 | $1,328,320 |
| 2028 | $10,031 | $0 | $932,654 | $159,295 | $5,208 | $1,107,188 |
| 2029 | $13,491 | $0 | $1,065,855 | $218,408 | $7,066 | $1,304,820 |
| 2030 | $16,249 | $0 | $1,171,108 | $265,546 | $8,548 | $1,461,451 |
| 2031 | $13,886 | $0 | $1,072,269 | $225,349 | $7,281 | $1,318,785 |
| 2032 | $13,134 | $0 | $1,037,702 | $212,631 | $6,879 | $1,270,346 |
| 2033 | $13,017 | $0 | $1,028,484 | $210,740 | $6,818 | $1,259,059 |
| 2034 | $9,508 | $0 | $884,077 | $150,993 | $4,937 | $1,049,515 |
| 2035 | $9,424 | $0 | $876,230 | $149,652 | $4,893 | $1,040,199 |
| 2036 | $12,673 | $0 | $1,001,320 | $205,166 | $6,638 | $1,225,797 |
| 2037 | $15,263 | $0 | $1,100,162 | $249,434 | $8,029 | $1,372,888 |

| Table 2-12: State and Local Estimated Tax Impacts of Operations, 2020–2059 (2018 $) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Employee compensation | Proprietor Income | Tax on Production and Imports | Households | Corporations | Total Revenue |
| 2038 | $9,770 | $0 | $876,834 | $155,851 | $5,083 | $1,047,538 |
| 2039 | $12,338 | $0 | $974,872 | $199,740 | $6,463 | $1,193,413 |
| 2040 | $14,859 | $0 | $1,071,089 | $242,832 | $7,817 | $1,336,597 |
| 2041 | $14,726 | $0 | $1,061,569 | $240,670 | $7,747 | $1,324,712 |
| 2042 | $13,160 | $0 | $994,907 | $214,044 | $6,908 | $1,229,019 |
| 2043 | $14,625 | $0 | $1,052,267 | $239,060 | $7,739 | $1,313,691 |
| 2044 | $14,336 | $0 | $1,033,516 | $234,300 | $7,542 | $1,289,694 |
| 2045 | $14,209 | $0 | $1,024,331 | $232,215 | $7,475 | $1,278,230 |
| 2046 | $14,082 | $0 | $1,015,227 | $230,148 | $7,409 | $1,266,866 |
| 2047 | $13,957 | $0 | $1,006,205 | $228,099 | $7,343 | $1,255,604 |
| 2048 | $13,675 | $0 | $953,602 | $223,716 | $6,833 | $1,197,826 |
| 2049 | $11,552 | $0 | $902,408 | $187,267 | $6,055 | $1,107,282 |
| 2050 | $8,243 | $0 | $766,557 | $130,910 | $4,281 | $909,991 |
| 2051 | $8,170 | $0 | $759,754 | $129,747 | $4,243 | $901,914 |
| 2052 | $8,097 | $0 | $753,012 | $128,595 | $4,205 | $893,909 |
| 2053 | $8,025 | $0 | $746,329 | $127,453 | $4,168 | $885,975 |
| 2054 | $7,954 | $0 | $739,706 | $126,321 | $4,131 | $878,112 |
| 2055 | $7,883 | $0 | $733,141 | $125,200 | $4,094 | $870,318 |
| 2056 | $7,813 | $0 | $726,635 | $124,088 | $4,058 | $862,594 |
| 2057 | $7,744 | $0 | $720,186 | $122,986 | $4,022 | $854,938 |
| 2058 | $7,675 | $0 | $713,795 | $121,894 | $3,986 | $847,350 |
| 2059 | $7,607 | $0 | $707,460 | $120,811 | $3,951 | $839,829 |
| **TOTAL** | **$454,354** | **$0** | **$37,416,628** | **$7,321,769** | **$237,175** | **$45,429,926** |

Source: MIG, Inc. IMPLAN model — Andrews County, Texas. CMEC utilizing inputs from ISP.

From the federal perspective, employee compensation taxes would generate $36,365,778 and proprietor income would generate $1,250,411 (**Table 2-13**). Taxes on production and imports would be $3,311,519. Households would generate approximately $25,826,615, while corporations would pay approximately $6,126,830. Overall, these revenues would generate a substantial benefit to the governments receiving the tax payments, as a result of the CISF's operations.

| Table 2-13: Federal Estimated Tax Impacts of Operations, 2020–2059 (2018 $) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Employee compensation | Proprietor Income | Tax on Production and Imports | Households | Corporations | Total Revenue |
| 2020 | $862,492 | $25,233 | $88,673 | $603,614 | $144,532 | $1,724,544 |
| 2021 | $854,798 | $25,007 | $87,881 | $598,227 | $143,242 | $1,709,155 |
| 2022 | $847,174 | $24,783 | $87,097 | $592,888 | $141,963 | $1,693,905 |
| 2023 | $839,617 | $24,560 | $86,319 | $587,597 | $140,695 | $1,678,788 |
| 2024 | $832,128 | $24,340 | $85,549 | $582,353 | $139,439 | $1,663,809 |

| Table 2-13: Federal Estimated Tax Impacts of Operations, 2020–2059 (2018 $) | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | Employee compensation | Proprietor Income | Tax on Production and Imports | Households | Corporations | Total Revenue |
| 2025 | $824,706 | $24,122 | $84,785 | $577,157 | $138,194 | $1,648,964 |
| 2026 | $817,350 | $23,905 | $84,029 | $572,006 | $136,961 | $1,634,251 |
| 2027 | $1,099,282 | $39,582 | $96,031 | $784,297 | $185,830 | $2,205,022 |
| 2028 | $802,889 | $23,485 | $82,544 | $561,891 | $134,540 | $1,605,349 |
| 2029 | $1,079,807 | $38,883 | $94,332 | $770,407 | $182,540 | $2,165,969 |
| 2030 | $1,300,529 | $51,192 | $103,648 | $936,680 | $220,807 | $2,612,856 |
| 2031 | $1,111,404 | $40,983 | $94,900 | $794,891 | $188,094 | $2,230,272 |
| 2032 | $1,051,239 | $37,857 | $91,841 | $750,030 | $177,715 | $2,108,682 |
| 2033 | $1,041,885 | $37,521 | $91,025 | $743,359 | $176,135 | $2,089,925 |
| 2034 | $761,024 | $22,268 | $78,244 | $532,607 | $127,533 | $1,521,676 |
| 2035 | $754,262 | $22,071 | $77,550 | $527,877 | $126,401 | $1,508,161 |
| 2036 | $1,014,321 | $36,532 | $88,621 | $723,698 | $171,479 | $2,034,651 |
| 2037 | $1,221,604 | $48,091 | $97,369 | $879,848 | $207,416 | $2,454,328 |
| 2038 | $781,974 | $24,109 | $77,603 | $549,746 | $131,316 | $1,564,748 |
| 2039 | $987,486 | $35,568 | $86,280 | $704,557 | $166,946 | $1,980,837 |
| 2040 | $1,189,263 | $46,820 | $94,796 | $856,559 | $201,928 | $2,389,366 |
| 2041 | $1,178,675 | $46,404 | $93,953 | $848,934 | $200,132 | $2,368,098 |
| 2042 | $1,053,281 | $39,680 | $88,053 | $755,014 | $178,452 | $2,114,480 |
| 2043 | $1,170,543 | $46,172 | $93,130 | $843,255 | $199,909 | $2,353,009 |
| 2044 | $1,147,471 | $45,178 | $91,470 | $826,465 | $194,837 | $2,305,421 |
| 2045 | $1,137,254 | $44,777 | $90,657 | $819,108 | $193,103 | $2,284,899 |
| 2046 | $1,127,128 | $44,379 | $89,852 | $811,816 | $191,385 | $2,264,560 |
| 2047 | $1,117,093 | $43,985 | $89,053 | $804,590 | $189,682 | $2,244,403 |
| 2048 | $1,094,539 | $43,486 | $84,397 | $789,130 | $176,522 | $2,188,074 |
| 2049 | $924,641 | $33,721 | $79,867 | $660,560 | $156,422 | $1,855,211 |
| 2050 | $659,754 | $19,322 | $67,843 | $461,768 | $110,581 | $1,319,268 |
| 2051 | $653,893 | $19,151 | $67,241 | $457,667 | $109,600 | $1,307,552 |
| 2052 | $648,083 | $18,982 | $66,644 | $453,603 | $108,627 | $1,295,939 |
| 2053 | $642,325 | $18,814 | $66,053 | $449,575 | $107,663 | $1,284,430 |
| 2054 | $636,618 | $18,648 | $65,467 | $445,582 | $106,708 | $1,273,023 |
| 2055 | $630,962 | $18,484 | $64,886 | $441,626 | $105,761 | $1,261,719 |
| 2056 | $625,356 | $18,320 | $64,310 | $437,704 | $104,822 | $1,250,512 |
| 2057 | $619,800 | $18,159 | $63,739 | $433,817 | $103,892 | $1,239,407 |
| 2058 | $614,293 | $17,998 | $63,174 | $429,965 | $102,970 | $1,228,400 |
| 2059 | $608,835 | $17,839 | $62,613 | $426,147 | $102,056 | $1,217,490 |
| **TOTAL** | **$36,365,778** | **$1,250,411** | **$3,311,519** | **$25,826,615** | **$6,126,830** | **$72,881,153** |

Source: MIG, Inc. IMPLAN model — Andrews County, Texas. CMEC utilizing inputs from ISP.

The URENCO criteria cannot be precisely applied because the modeled data does not directly relate to the county level revenue data, especially given the varying components that go into that data depending on the county. Generally speaking however, it appears that anticipated state and local tax revenues that would result from the WCS CISF facility would have a positive impact on the overall county tax revenues, based on recent data.

## 2.6 OTHER IMPACTS

### 2.6.1 Environmental Justice Impacts

As discussed in Section 1.1.10, based on Appendix C ("Environmental Justice Procedures") to NUREC-1748, the data on minority and low-income populations in the four-mile radius study area does not indicate the presence of an environmental justice community of concern.

No relocations or displacements would be required for the proposed CISF activities. Any noise or air quality considerations would be primarily limited to temporary impacts during the construction phase. Deliveries of storage casks would happen only a few times a week and transportation would be on rail cars, resulting in limited noise or air quality impacts. Economic impacts from construction and operations would result in small positive effects on the local and regional economy.

To achieve meaningful public involvement consistent with E.O. 12898 on Environmental Justice and E.O. 13166 on Limited English Proficiency, future public involvement activities would include populations within the ROI so that questions and concerns from those living within the larger ROI can be incorporated into the environmental process.

### 2.6.2 Historic Resources Impacts

As discussed in Section 1.4.1, coordination with the THC has been completed and no further work is required regarding historic resources. Coordination with NMSHPO is underway.

### 2.6.3 Archeological Resources Impacts

As discussed in Section 1.4.2, no impacts to archeological sites would occur as a result of the proposed project within the boundaries of the 2015 survey area. The archeological survey report is under review at THC. Coordination with NMSHPO is underway.

### 2.6.4 Scenic Resources Impacts

As discussed in Section 1.4.3, scenic resources in the project area are not considered to be dramatic, unique, or rare. The proposed facility would add to other existing industrial facilities in the area but would not have a substantial adverse effect on the current landscape for area viewers.

### 2.6.5 Agricultural Impacts

As discussed in Section 1.4.4, agriculture has been in decline as documented by the census of agriculture over the period from 2007 to 2012. Between 2007 and 2012, the acreage of land in farms and average farm size declined in Andrews County and Lea County, and the market value of agricultural production declined over that time period as well. Although these data are county-wide, it is assumed that these general trends toward land use development may continue. Though the proposed CISF project would not take land out of agricultural production, some areas surrounding the WCS facility may convert to developed uses over time as CISF activities are mobilized and with continued development of operations at the URENCO nuclear generation facility in New Mexico.

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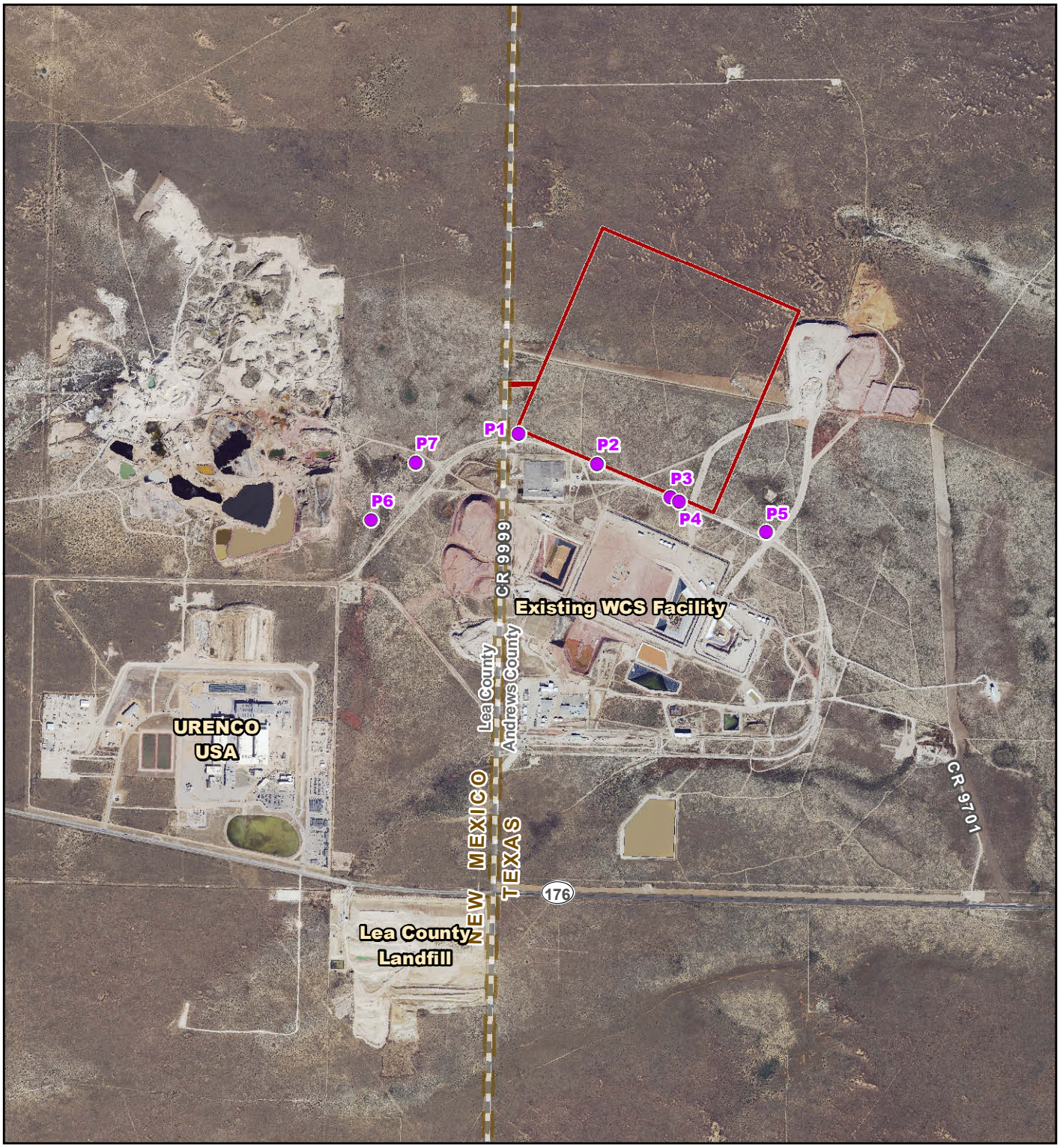
# Appendix A

# WCS Photographs of Proposed Spent Fuel Consolidated Interim Storage Facility Site




Project Location

Photo Location

0 2,500 Feet

0 600 Meters

**Figure A-1**

**WCS Photos of Proposed ISFS Site**

**Proposed Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility**

COX | McLAIN Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 2,500 feet |
| | Scale: 1:30,000 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 4/4/2016 |

Source: CMEC (2015)
Aerial Source: TNRIS (2015)

G:\Projects\WCS\Scenic_Figure A-1_Photos of ISFS Site_20160404.mxd

At P1, facing southwest from proposed site to redbed stockpile on existing WCS site.

At P2, new site facing north.

At P2, from south of new site facing southwest to redbed stockpile.

At P3, WCS railroad spur facing west towards New Mexico, south boundary of proposed site.

At P5, project area vegetation.

At P6, view from top of redbed stockpile towards New Mexico and Urenco facility.

At P7, view northeast from stockpile towards project site at northeast quadrant of intersection.

# Appendix B

# Andrews County Resolution

IN THE COMMISSIONERS COURT
OF
ANDREWS COUNTY, TEXAS

*A resolution in support of establishing a site in Andrews County for consolidated interim storage of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.*

**WHEREAS,** Andrews County, Texas, as host to two low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities operated by Waste Control Specialists LLC ("WCS"), greatly benefits directly and indirectly from the economic activity associated with disposal of radioactive materials; and

**WHEREAS,** Andrews County recognizes the importance of a diversified economy to the livelihood of the citizens of Andrews County; and

**WHEREAS,** Andrews County is home to a specialized workforce with expertise concerning radioactive materials, and WCS currently employs more than 170 full-time employees with an annual payroll of more than $13 million in Andrews County; and

**WHEREAS,** Andrews County has invested in the success of the low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities operated by WCS by issuing $75 million in bonds and using that revenue to purchase property leased by WCS as part of the operation of the disposal facilities; and

**WHEREAS,** Andrews County receives five percent of the gross receipts from waste disposed of at the two low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities, which receipts to date have totaled over $5 million directly paid to Andrews County and are expected to total more than $3 million per year in the future; and

**WHEREAS,** WCS has consistently shown its commitment to the environment and the citizens of Andrews County by, among other things, designing and operating safe, state-of-the-art radioactive materials facilities, working to ensure that Andrews County shares in economic benefits because of WCS operations, and working to ensure that local stakeholders are kept informed and made an integral part of the decision-making process concerning WCS operations; and

**WHEREAS,** there are substantial quantities of Spent Nuclear Fuel ("SNF") and High-Level Radioactive Waste ("HLW") currently stored at sites throughout Texas and the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** much of the SNF and HLW is currently stored at sites that are vulnerable to natural disasters and located near large metropolitan centers; and

**WHEREAS,** the United States Department of Energy (the "DOE") concluded in 2013 that a geologic repository for the permanent disposal of SNF and HLW will not be available until 2048, at the earliest; and

**WHEREAS,** the federal Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future in 2012 recommended "prompt" efforts to develop one or more consolidated SNF and HLW interim storage facilities while further efforts are made to develop a permanent disposal site; and

**WHEREAS,** the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ("TCEQ") analyzed the challenges associated with creating a consolidated SNF and HLW interim storage solution in Texas in its March 2014 *Assessment of Texas's High Level Radioactive Waste Storage Options* report (the "Report"); and

**WHEREAS,** the TCEQ, in the Report, noted that consolidated SNF and HLW interim storage in Texas would offer electricity consumers significant savings compared to storage at each nuclear power plant and that the siting and construction of a consolidated SNF and HLW interim storage facility is "not only feasible but could be highly successful" so long as the approach "minimizes local and state opposition through stakeholder meetings, finding volunteer communities, financial incentives, and a process that is considered fair and technically rigorous;" and

**WHEREAS,** the Texas Radiation Advisory Board issued an official statement of its position "that it is in the state's best interest to request that Texas be considered by the Federal Government as a consolidated SNF storage site;" and

**WHEREAS,** the Governor of Texas noted that Texas should "begin looking for a safe and secure solution for HLW in Texas;" and

**WHEREAS,** the workforce, the geography, and the geology of Andrews County make it an ideal location for safe storage of radioactive materials, and Andrews County is a volunteer community that wishes to offer its unique resources to help solve the state's and country's SNF and HLW storage problems.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that the Commissioners Court of Andrews County, Texas, meeting in open session, believes that the construction and operation of a consolidated SNF and HLW interim storage facility in Andrews County (the "Facility"), licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and developed by WCS, will enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Andrews County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that the Commissioners Court of Andrews County does hereby declare and express the commitment of Andrews County

to explore the development of the Facility, and in support thereof does hereby call upon and ask:

the State of Texas, all its agencies, officials and political subdivisions, and all members of the Texas congressional delegation to work cooperatively with all relevant entities towards the creation of the Facility, including taking actions to evidence approval of the development of the Facility, such as executing and delivering letters of support, cooperative agreements, or other documents needed in connection with the site selection, siting and licensing of the Facility; and

the State of Texas, all its agencies and officials, and all members of the Texas congressional delegation to assist Andrews County in securing all federal incentives that may be available, as a result of siting the Facility, from the DOE or another appropriate federal entity; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that the Andrews County Judge is hereby authorized to negotiate terms of any interlocal agreements and other contracts and agreements related to financial incentives that may be available to Andrews County as a result of siting the Facility, which terms and agreements or contracts will be subject to approval by this Commissioners Court; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that Andrews County is committed to exercising its regulatory and service-providing powers, including such powers as those related to transportation planning, infrastructure development, and police and fire protection, in a manner that protects the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Andrews County by facilitating the development of the Facility; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Texas Governor, the Texas Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the Texas House, the State Representative for Texas House District 81, the State Senator for State Senate District 31, the United States Representative for Congressional District 11, the United States Senators for the State of Texas, the Commissioners of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the United States Secretary of Energy.

Passed and Approved this 20th day of January, 2015.

County Judge Richard H Dolgener

Commissioner, Pct 3

Jeneanne Anderegg

Commissioner, Pct 1 Barney Fowler

Commissioner,Pct. 4 Jim Waldrop

ATTEST:

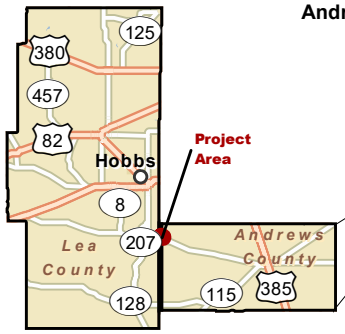
Commissioner, Pct 2 Brad Young

County Clerk

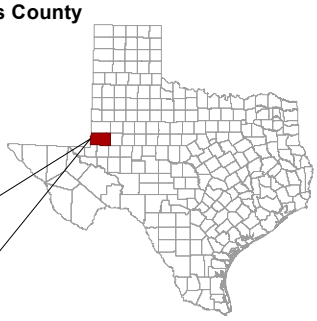
# Appendix C

# WCS Scenic Resources Photo Inventory – 2015


Project Location




Andrews County



Aerial Source: TNRIS (2015)

0 3,000 Feet
0 800 Meters

**Figure C-1**

**Project Location**

**Proposed Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility**

COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 3,000 feet |
| | Scale: 1:36,000 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 4/4/2016 |

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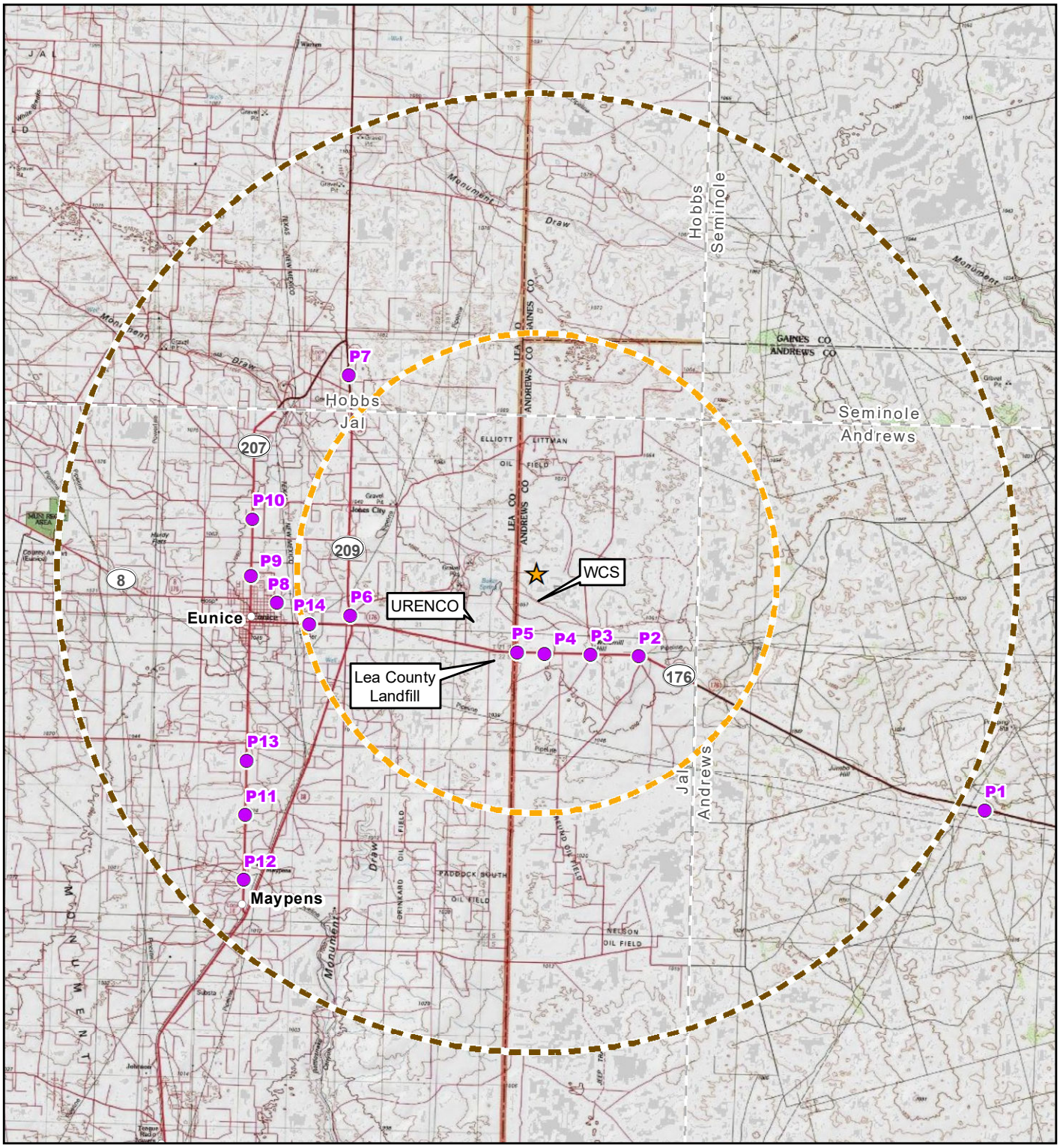


- Proposed Facility
- Photo Location
- Proposed Facility 5-mile Radius
- Proposed Facility 10-mile Radius
- USGS 30' x 60' Quadrangle Boundary

0 3 Miles
0 4 Kilometers

# Figure C-2

## Scenic Resources in the Visual Resources Study Area

**Proposed Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility**

COX | McLAIN Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 3 miles |
| | Scale: 1:190,080 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 5/8/2015 |

Source: CMEC (2015)
Basemap Sources: USGS Jal, New Mexico 30' x 60' Quadrangle (1978), USGS Andrews, Texas 30' x 60' Quadrangle (1991), USGS Seminole, Texas 30' x 60' Quadrangle (1992), USGS Hobbs, New Mexico 30' x 60' Quadrangle (1975)

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Photo 1, facing slightly northwest from Highway 176 – background range
(approximately 10.6 miles from center point of proposed CISF facility).

Photo 2, facing northwest from Highway 176 – foreground/mid-ground range
(approximately 2.7 miles from centerpoint of proposed CISF facility).


Photo 3, facing northwest from Highway 176 – facility redbed piles in distance –- foreground/ mid-ground range (approximately 2.0 miles from centerpoint of proposed CISF facility).

Photo 4, facing northwest from Highway 176 east of facility entrance; redbed piles and WCS buildings visible – foreground range (approximately 1.7 miles from centerpoint of proposed CISF facility).

Photo 5, facing west from Highway 176 at WCS entrance – foreground range (approximately 1.7 miles south of centerpoint of proposed CISF facility).

Photo 5b, facing southwest from WCS entrance – foreground range (existing Lea County, New Mexico, landfill).

Photo 5c, facing north from Highway 176 at Urenco Uranium Enrichment Facility – foreground range (photo taken from just west of photo point 5).


Photo 6, facing east from NM 18 toward facility – Urenco visible as white structure at horizon – foreground/mid-ground range (approximately 4.0 miles from centerpoint of proposed CISF facility).

Photo 7, facing southeast from NM 18 toward facility – just beyond mid-ground range (approximately 5.6 miles from centerpoint of proposed CISF facility).

Photo 8, facing east from Eunice neighborhood toward facility – just beyond mid-ground range; Urenco facility visible as white structure on horizon (approximately 5.5 miles from centerpoint of proposed CISF facility).

Photo 9, facing east from NM 207 – just beyond mid-ground range; Urenco facility visible as white structure on horizon (approximately 5.9 miles from the centerpoint of proposed CISF facility).

Photo 10a, facing southeast from NM 207 toward facility, just beyond mid-ground range (approximately 6.0 miles from centerpoint of proposed CISF facility).

Photo 10a, facing south along NM 207 toward Eunice, just beyond mid-ground range (approximately 6.0 miles from centerpoint of proposed CISF facility).

Photo 11, facing northeast from NM 207 south of Eunice – background range (approximately 7.9 miles from centerpoint of proposed CISF facility).

Photo 12, facing northeast from NM 207 south of Eunice – seldom seen range (approximately 8.8 miles from centerpoint of proposed CISF facility).

Photo 13, facing northeast towards facility from NM 207 south of Eunice – background range (approximately 7.2 miles from centerpoint of proposed CISF facility).

Photo 14, facing east toward facility from east of Eunice on Highway 176; redbed piles and Urenco facility visible on the horizon – midground range (approximately 4.0 miles from centerpoint of proposed CISF facility).

# Appendix D

## Texas Historical Commission Letters and Archeological Survey Permit; New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office Coordination

COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

May 5, 2015

Sarah Birtchet
Texas Historical Commission
History Division
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711

**Re: Project Review under Section 106 for a Proposed Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility in Andrews County, Texas**

Dear Ms. Birtchet:

Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS) intends to file an application for a license for the independent storage of spent nuclear fuel and reactor-related, greater-than-Class C wastes at a site in western Andrews County, Texas (see **Figure 1**, attached). These activities are regulated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); the project is therefore subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This letter addresses historic resources; archeological resources are being coordinated under separate cover. The site is in the northwestern-most corner of Andrews County and is immediately adjacent to the Texas/New Mexico state line; this project is also being shared with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

A previous license for disposal of low-level radioactive waste on the WCS complex was coordinated with the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the New Mexico SHPO in 2006. The THC and New Mexico SHPO concurred that there would be no historic properties affected on July 20, 2006, and July 21, 2006 respectively.

**Project Description**
WCS is requesting authorization from the NRC to construct and operate a Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel (CISF) storage facility for spent nuclear fuel on approximately 100 acres of land within the approximately 14,000-acre complex owned by WCS (see **Figure 2**). The project is located in a remote area approximately five miles east of Eunice, New Mexico and north of Highway 176 (also named Highway 87). The area is surrounded by a high density of oil wells to the west and some oil wells to the north; there is little development to the south and east, excluding portions of the existing WCS facility. Operations at the WCS facility began in 1994; none of the development is historic-age.

The proposed facility would house a dry cask storage system. WCS is exploring several different options for the system. One option would be an above-ground system utilizing several low-rise buildings (see **Figure 3**), while another option would store the casks underground. Both the above-ground and below-ground design options are assumed to require the presence of a crane approximately 60 feet in height during the operating license timeframe.

**Historic Resources Area of Potential Effect**
The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for direct impacts is proposed as the project footprint (see **Figure 4**). Taking into consideration the height of the crane that would be required, the height of the potential above-ground facility, and the relatively flat surrounding terrain, the APE for indirect/visual impacts is

proposed as a one-mile radius from the proposed project footprint (see **Figure 4**). WCS anticipates that the NRC will issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement and License by April 1, 2019. Therefore, a historic-age date of 1974 (45 years prior to 2019) is proposed.

According to a search of the digital Sites Atlas maintained by the THC, no known historic cemeteries, Official State Historical Markers (OSHM), State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs), or properties or districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are located within the APE for direct or indirect impacts. The nearest previously identified resource is the OSHM for Andrews County, located approximately 17 miles southeast of the project area.

Adjacent to the WCS facility to the west is a large uranium enrichment plant called the National Enrichment Facility, operated by Urenco. This facility was developed within the past 15 years. The proposed project area is located in a very remote area of Texas with little development aside from the non-historic age WCS and Urenco facilities. The proposed project would not result in a direct effect to any historic resources. There do not appear to be any historic resources 45 years or older (dating to 1974 or earlier) within the one-mile indirect effects APE.

The nearest developed area is Eunice, New Mexico, which is located approximately five miles west of the proposed site. There are two large visual obstructions between viewers in Eunice and the proposed crane at the site: red soil mounds approximately 100 feet in height on WCS property, and the Urenco facility (see **Figure 5**). Based on information from WCS, the soil mounds will be in place indefinitely or potentially utilized as fill. As illustrated in **Photos 3-5** in the attached photo sheets, the red soil mounds and the Urenco facility are visible from the outskirts of Eunice but tend to dissolve visually into the horizon. Excluding the crane, the CISF storage facility would be approximately 30 feet above the surface and less visible from Eunice than existing features and structures.

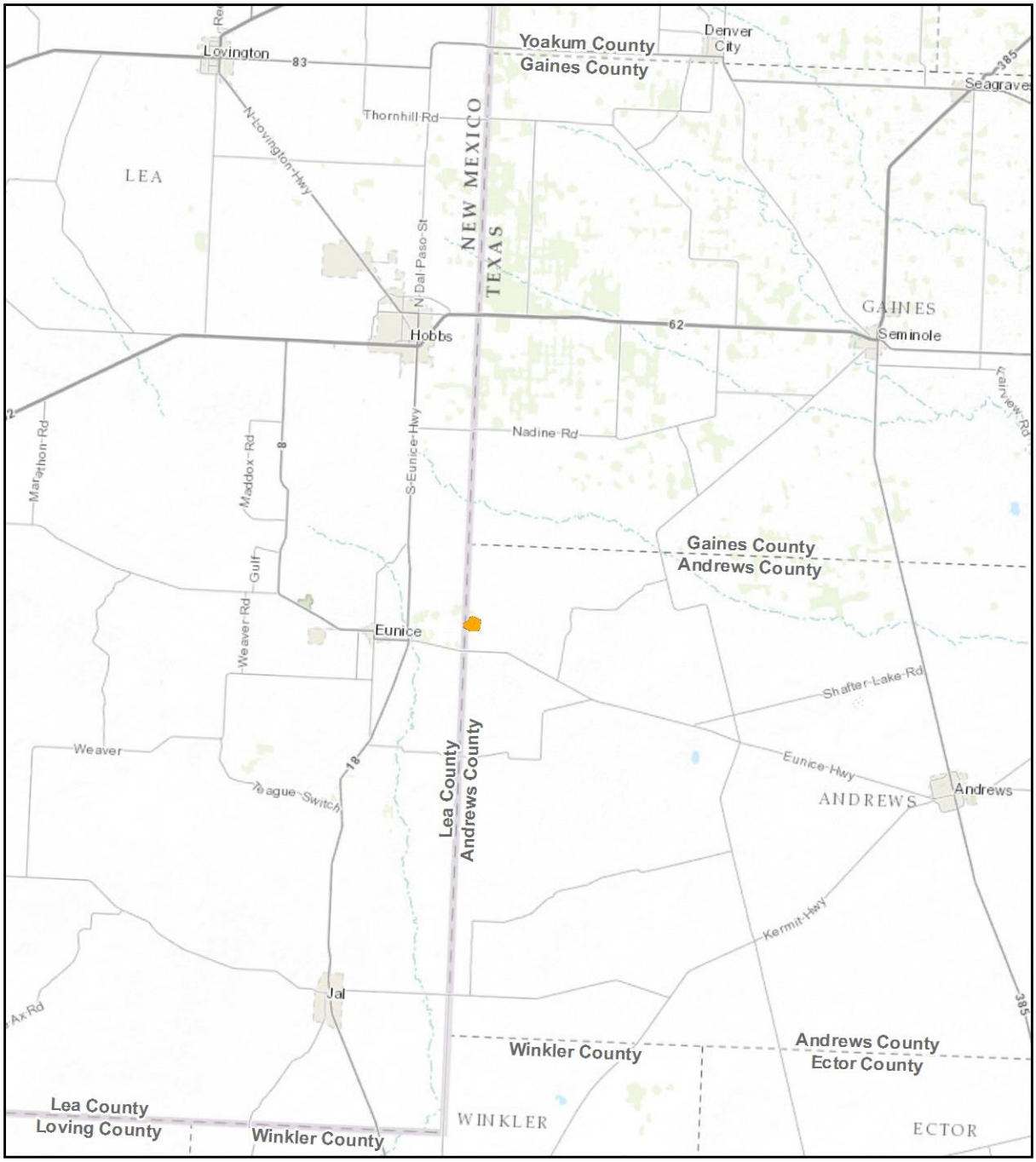
**Request for Concurrence**
It is the professional opinion of CMEC cultural resources personnel that further historic resources investigations are not warranted prior to construction. We ask for your concurrence with this finding.

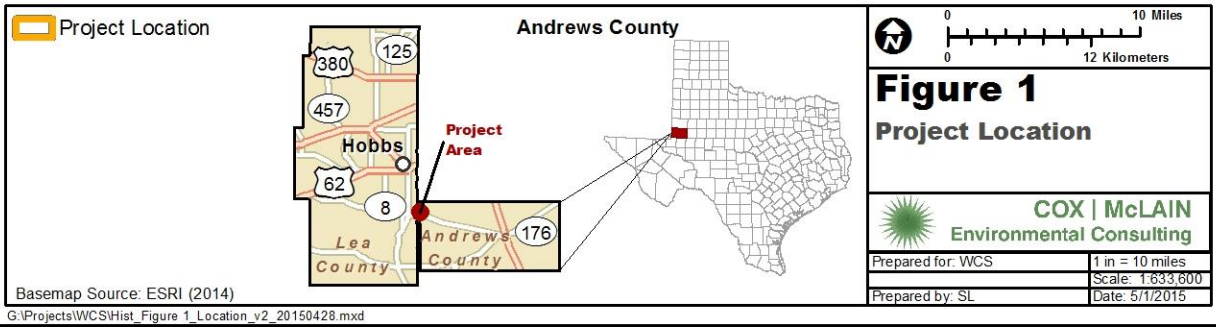
Should you have any questions, please contact me at EmilyR@coxmclain.com or 512-338-2223.

Sincerely,

Emily Reed, Architectural Historian
Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.

**Attachments**
Figure 1: General Project Location Map
Figure 2: Detail Facility Map
Figure 3: Potential CISF Storage Facility Site Design Renderings
Figure 4: Proposed APE for Historic Resources
Figure 5: Viewshed Analysis
Contextual Photographs




# Figure 1
## Project Location

COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 10 miles |
| | Scale: 1:633,600 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 5/1/2015 |

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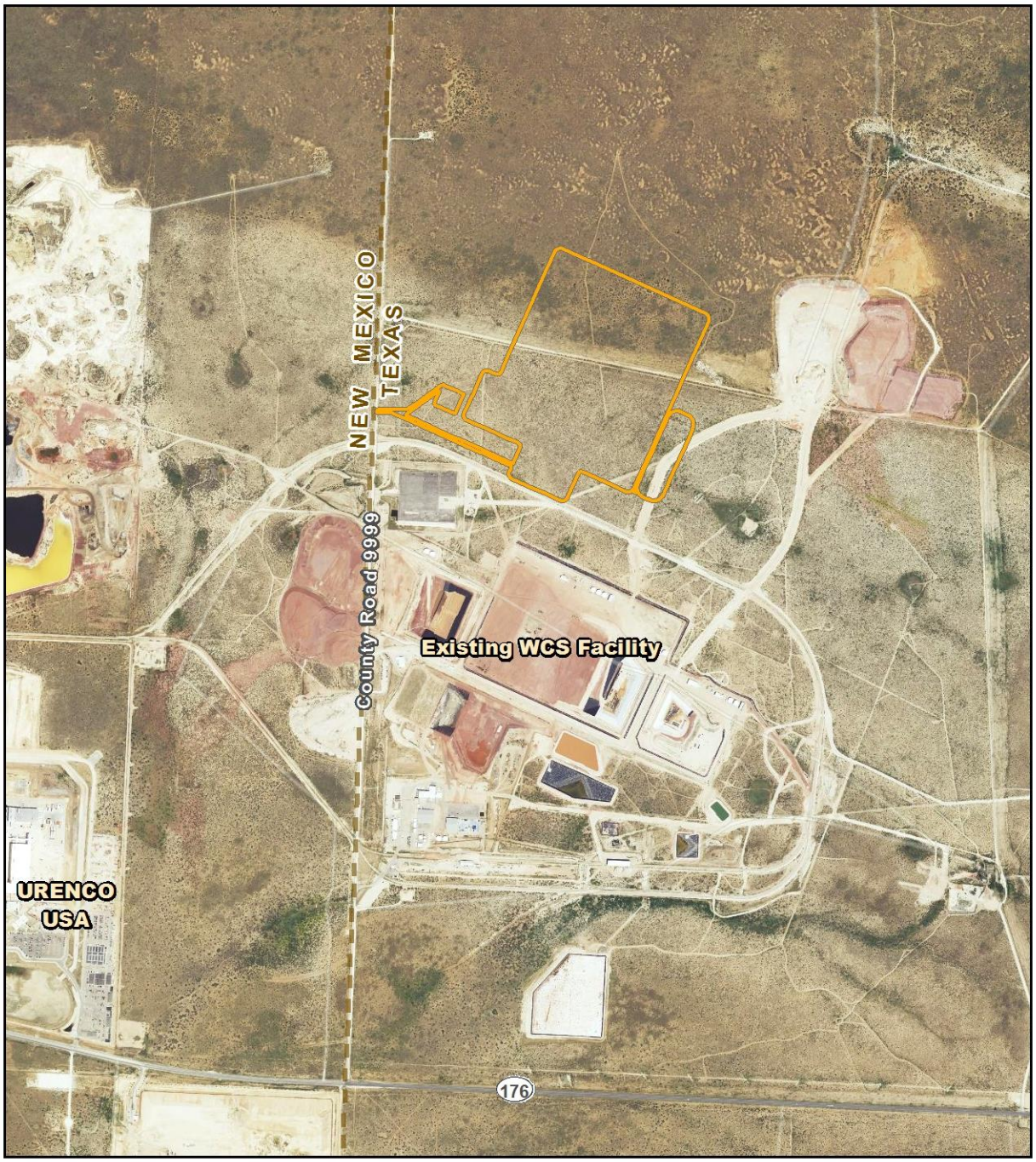


Project Footprint

0 2,000 Feet
0 600 Meters

# Figure 2

## Aerial Photograph

COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 2,000 feet |
| | Scale: 1:24,000 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 5/4/2015 |

Aeria Source: NAIP (2014)

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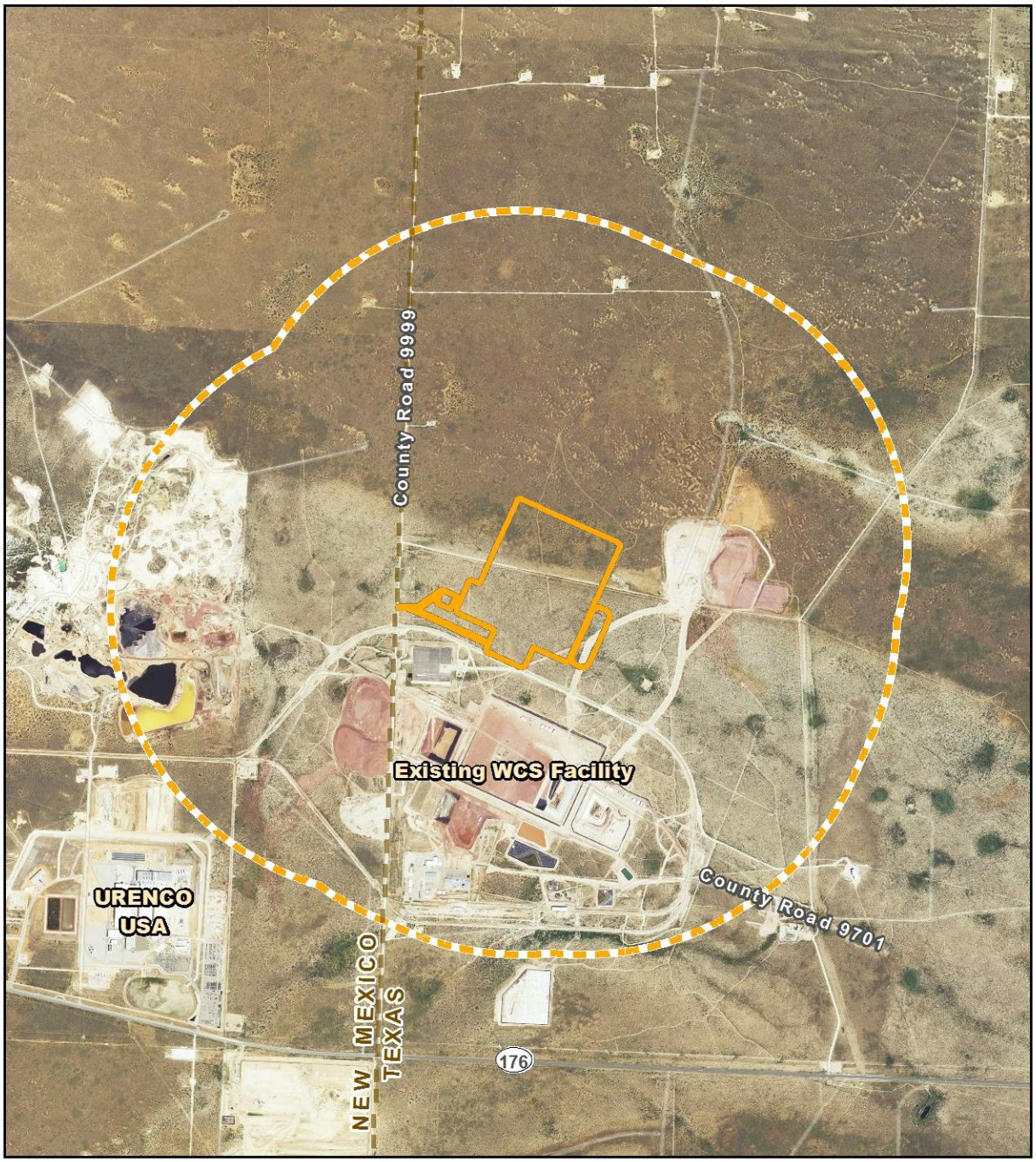
AMERICA'S NUCLEAR SOLUTION

# POTENTUAL ISFSI SITE RENDERINGS

**Figure 3**
**Potential Storage Facility Site Design Renderings**




APE for Direct Impacts (project footprint)
APE for Indirect/Visual Impacts (1-mile radius)

Note: no previously recorded
Texas resources mapped
within either APE

Sources: THC (2015), TARL (2015)
Aerial Source: NAIP (2014)

0 3,000 Feet
0 800 Meters

# Figure 4

## Location of Historic Area of Potential Effect

COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 3,000 feet |
| | Scale: 1:36,000 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 5/4/2015 |

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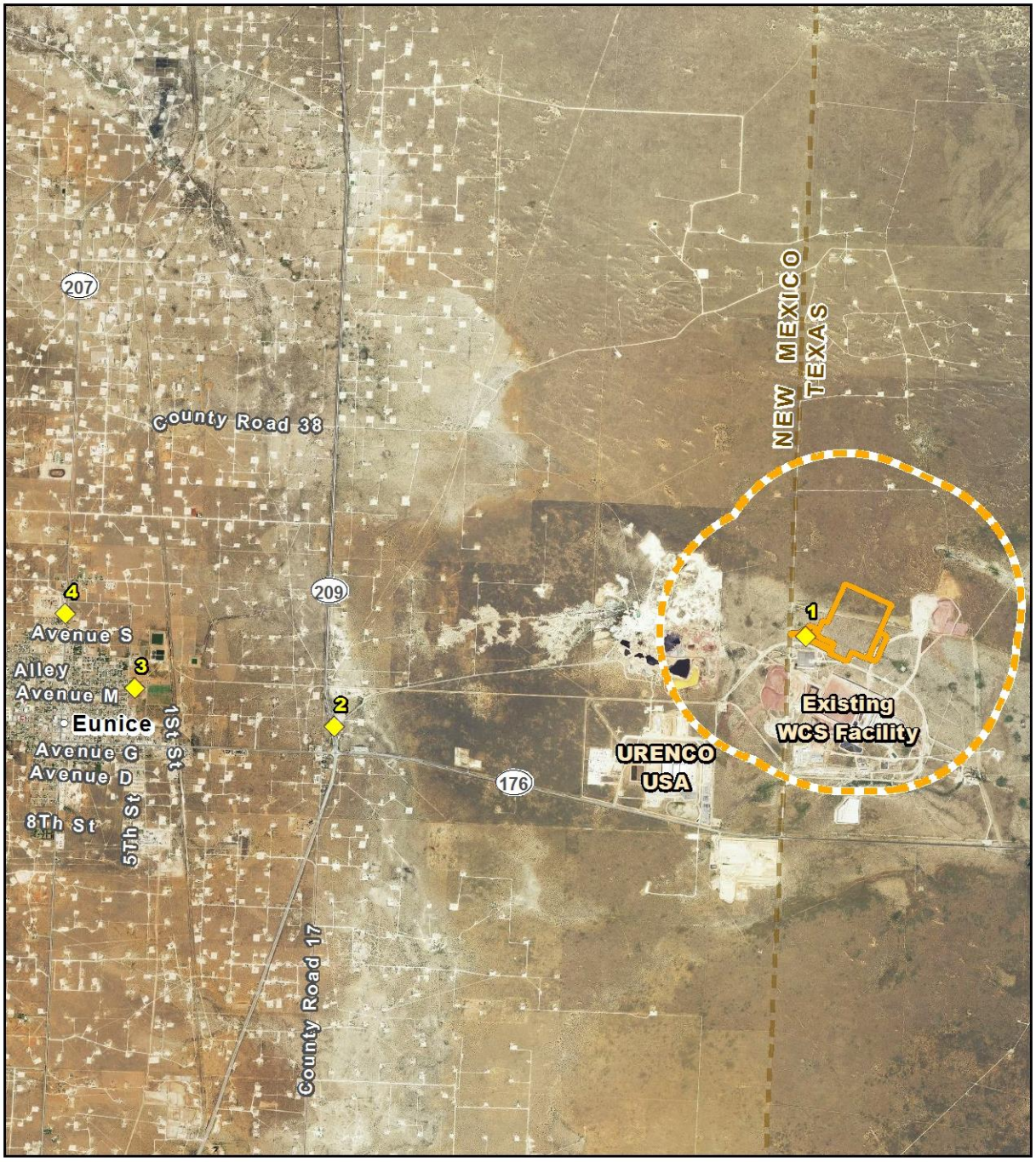


APE for Direct Impacts (project footprint)
APE for Indirect/Visual Impacts (1-mile radius)
Photo Location

0 1.25 Miles
0 1.5 Kilometers

# Figure 5
## Viewshed Analysis

COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 1.25 miles |
| | Scale: 1:79,200 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 5/1/2015 |

Source: CMEC (2015)
Aerial Source: NAIP (2014)

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**Contextual Photographs**

Photo 1. View of proposed site, looking north.


Photo 2. View from proposed site on WCS property looking southwest towards red soil pile (see Photo Point 1 on **Figure 5**).

Photo 3. View looking east towards the proposed site from Photo Point 2 (see **Figure 5**). Note the URENCO facility barely visible on the horizon.

Photo 4. View looking east from Photo Point 3 (see **Figure 5**).

Photo 5. View looking east from Photo Point 4 (see **Figure 5**).

COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

May 5, 2015

FORBES
Sarah ~~Birtchet~~
Texas Historical Commission
History Division
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711

NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES AFFECTED
PROJECT MAY PROCEED
by
for Mark Wolfe
State Historic Preservation Officer
Date 6/1/15

MAY 06 2015

**Re: Project Review under Section 106 for a Proposed Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility in Andrews County, Texas**

FORBES
Dear Ms. ~~Birtchet~~:

Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS) intends to file an application for a license for the independent storage of spent nuclear fuel and reactor-related, greater-than-Class C wastes at a site in western Andrews County, Texas (see **Figure 1**, attached). These activities are regulated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); the project is therefore subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This letter addresses historic resources; archeological resources are being coordinated under separate cover. The site is in the northwestern-most corner of Andrews County and is immediately adjacent to the Texas/New Mexico state line; this project is also being shared with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

A previous license for disposal of low-level radioactive waste on the WCS complex was coordinated with the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the New Mexico SHPO in 2006. The THC and New Mexico SHPO concurred that there would be no historic properties affected on July 20, 2006, and July 21, 2006 respectively.

**Project Description**

WCS is requesting authorization from the NRC to construct and operate a Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel (CISF) storage facility for spent nuclear fuel on approximately 100 acres of land within the approximately 14,000-acre complex owned by WCS (see **Figure 2**). The project is located in a remote area approximately five miles east of Eunice, New Mexico and north of Highway 176 (also named Highway 87). The area is surrounded by a high density of oil wells to the west and some oil wells to the north; there is little development to the south and east, excluding portions of the existing WCS facility. Operations at the WCS facility began in 1994; none of the development is historic-age.

The proposed facility would house a dry cask storage system. WCS is exploring several different options for the system. One option would be an above-ground system utilizing several low-rise buildings (see **Figure 3**), while another option would store the casks underground. Both the above-ground and below-ground design options are assumed to require the presence of a crane approximately 60 feet in height during the operating license timeframe.

**Historic Resources Area of Potential Effect**

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for direct impacts is proposed as the project footprint (see **Figure 4**). Taking into consideration the height of the crane that would be required, the height of the potential above-ground facility, and the relatively flat surrounding terrain, the APE for indirect/visual impacts is

proposed as a one-mile radius from the proposed project footprint (see **Figure 4**). WCS anticipates that the NRC will issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement and License by April 1, 2019. Therefore, a historic-age date of 1974 (45 years prior to 2019) is proposed.

According to a search of the digital Sites Atlas maintained by the THC, no known historic cemeteries, Official State Historical Markers (OSHM), State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs), or properties or districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are located within the APE for direct or indirect impacts. The nearest previously identified resource is the OSHM for Andrews County, located approximately 17 miles southeast of the project area.

Adjacent to the WCS facility to the west is a large uranium enrichment plant called the National Enrichment Facility, operated by Urenco. This facility was developed within the past 15 years. The proposed project area is located in a very remote area of Texas with little development aside from the non-historic age WCS and Urenco facilities. The proposed project would not result in a direct effect to any historic resources. There do not appear to be any historic resources 45 years or older (dating to 1974 or earlier) within the one-mile indirect effects APE.

The nearest developed area is Eunice, New Mexico, which is located approximately five miles west of the proposed site. There are two large visual obstructions between viewers in Eunice and the proposed crane at the site: red soil mounds approximately 100 feet in height on WCS property, and the Urenco facility (see **Figure 5**). Based on information from WCS, the soil mounds will be in place indefinitely or potentially utilized as fill. As illustrated in **Photos 3-5** in the attached photo sheets, the red soil mounds and the Urenco facility are visible from the outskirts of Eunice but tend to dissolve visually into the horizon. Excluding the crane, the CISF storage facility would be approximately 30 feet above the surface and less visible from Eunice than existing features and structures.

**Request for Concurrence**
It is the professional opinion of CMEC cultural resources personnel that further historic resources investigations are not warranted prior to construction. We ask for your concurrence with this finding.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at EmilyR@coxmclain.com or 512-338-2223.

Sincerely,

Emily Reed

Emily Reed, Architectural Historian
Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.

**Attachments**
Figure 1: General Project Location Map
Figure 2: Detail Facility Map
Figure 3: Potential CISF Storage Facility Site Design Renderings
Figure 4: Proposed APE for Historic Resources
Figure 5: Viewshed Analysis
Contextual Photographs

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

# ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM
# ARCHEOLOGY

## GENERAL INFORMATION

I. PROPERTY TYPE AND LOCATION

Project Name (and/or Site Trinomial) Waste Control Specialists (WCS) Spent Fuel Storage Facility
County (ies) Andrews
USGS Quadrangle Name and Number Eunice NE (3203-144)
UTM Coordinates (approximate) Zone 13 S E 683128-681989 N 3592495-3592059
Location WCS Storage Facility
Federal Involvement ☒ Yes ☐ No
Name of Federal Agency Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Agency Representatives

II. OWNER (OR CONTROLLING AGENCY)

Owner Andrews County
Representative Richard H. Dolgener, County Judge
Address 201 N. Main, Rm 104
City/State/Zip Andrews, TX 79714
Telephone (include area code) 432-524-1401 Email Address rdolgener@co.andrews.tx.us

III. PROJECT SPONSOR (IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER)

Sponsor
Representative
Address
City/State/Zip
Telephone (include area code) Email Address

## PROJECT INFORMATION

I. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (ARCHEOLOGIST)

Name Chris Dayton
Affiliation Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.
Address 6010 Balcones Dr. Ste. 210
City/State/Zip Austin, TX 78731
Telephone (include area code) 512-338-2223 Email Address chris@coxmclain.com

(OVER)

## ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM (CONTINUED)

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Proposed Starting Date of Fieldwork May 18, 2015
Requested Permit Duration 3 Years _____ Months (1 year minimum)
Scope of Work (Provided an Outline of Proposed Work) pedestrian survey, judgmental shovel testing

III. CURATION & REPORT

Temporary Curatorial or Laboratory Facility Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Austin, TX
Permanent Curatorial Facility Texas State Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS)

IV. OWNER'S CERTIFICATION

I, Richard H. Dolgener, as legal representative of the Owner, Andrews County, do certify that I have reviewed the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be performed prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Owner, Sponsor, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of the permit.

Signature Richard H Dolgener Date 5-7-2015

V. SPONSOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, _____, as legal representative of the Sponsor, _____, do certify that I have review the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be performed prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Sponsor, Owner, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.

Signature _____ Date _____

VI. INVESTIGATOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, Chris Dayton, as Principal Investigator employed by Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc. (Investigative Firm), do certify that I will execute this project according to the submitted plans and research design, and will not conduct any work prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Principal Investigator (and the Investigative Firm), as well as the Owner and Sponsor, are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.

Signature _____ Date April 29, 2015

Principal Investigator must attach a research design, a copy of the USGS quadrangle showing project boundaries, and any additional pertinent information. Curriculum vitae must be on file with the Division of Antiquities Protection.

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

Reviewer _____ Date Permit Issues _____
Permit Number _____ Permit Expiration Date _____
Type of Permit _____ Date Received for Data Entry _____

Texas Historical Commission
Archeology Division
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
Phone 512/463-6096
www.thc.state.tx.us

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

**ARCHEOLOGICAL INTENSIVE SURVEY SCOPE**

**WCS Spent Fuel Storage Facility**
**Andrews County, Texas**

## Project Description

In collaboration with Andrews County, Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS), a private company, proposes to develop an away-from-reactor spent nuclear fuel storage facility in the northwest part of the county, immediately north of an existing WCS facility (see **Figures 1** and **2**). The proposed footprint of the planned facility and access roads covers an area of approximately 140 acres (57 hectares). Because the project includes a host agreement with the County, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, the project is considered subject to the Antiquities Code of Texas (9 TNRC 191). The project would also be subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended (16 USC 470; 36 CFR 800), due to oversight by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

## Background Information

The 140-acre (57-hectare) archeological area of potential effects (APE) is located at approximately 3,500 feet above mean sea level near the northwest corner of Andrews County and is immediately adjacent to the Texas/New Mexico state line (see **Figure 1**). The APE is located in a remote area north of Highway 176 (also called Highway 87) approximately 6.5 miles (10.5 kilometers) from Eunice, New Mexico. Existing disturbances in the area include an existing WCS facility just south of the APE, URENCO USA, a nuclear fuel enrichment facility in New Mexico, southwest of the APE, and various oil wells and pipelines (see **Figure 2**).

The APE falls into the stepped region of the Llano Estacado or the Southern High Plains. The nearest water source in the past would have been Baker Springs (no longer active) located approximately 0.4 miles or 0.65 kilometers west-southwest of the APE. The other major water sources in the region are the Pecos and Colorado Rivers, which are over 20 miles to the south and north, respectively. The geology of the APE includes the Pliocene-age Ogallala Formation with occurrences of Pleistocene-age windblown cover sand on the north side (BEG 1976). According to Natural Resources Conservation (NRCS) data, soils in the APE are primarily gently undulating Blakeney and Conger soils with small occurrences of Ratliff, Triomas, Wickett, and undulating Jalmar-Penwell soils (NRCS 2015). Most of the soils mapped within the APE have a low probability of buried materials; Blakeney and Conger soils are shallow, and Ratliff, Triomas, and Wickett soils are technically deep but their profiles include Pleistocene-age Blackwater Draw Formation parent material. The exception is Jalmar-Penwell soils, which tend to form on Holocene-age eolian deposits (NRCS 2015). Jalmar-Penwell soils are expected to be present only in the northeast corner of the APE.

A search of the *Texas Archeological Sites Atlas* (Atlas) maintained by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) was conducted in order to identify archeological sites, historical markers (Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks or RTHLs), properties or districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs), cemeteries, or other cultural resources that may have been previously recorded in or near the APE, as well as previous surveys undertaken in the area.

According to Atlas survey coverage data, the APE has not been subjected to an archeological survey. However, the Atlas does show that a portion of the existing WCS facility was surveyed in 1994 by Galván Eling Associates, Inc. (THC 2015). A review of the 1994 letter report by Galván Eling Associates, Inc. indicates that that project's APE was actually larger than the APE shown on the Atlas, and that the southern half of the current APE may have been included within it (Galván Eling Associates, Inc. 1994). Six pieces of burned caliche were found and no further work was recommended. The THC concurred on August 8, 1994. In 2004, URS Corporation contacted the THC on behalf of WCS regarding development of a portion of the Galván Eling 1994 survey area that had not

been developed between 1994 and 2004. The THC concurred that no further work was required on June 25, 2004. Because of the ambiguity in older survey maps, the lack of full coverage under the previous survey, and the fact that the previous study was over 20 years old, WCS elected to scope a survey of the entire new facility footprint.

According to the Atlas data, there are no other surveys within the study area and the nearest archeological site is over 3.7 miles (6 kilometers) away.

CMEC requested access to the *New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System* (NMCRIS) database administered by the Archeological Records Management Section (ARMS) of the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (NMHPD) because a one-mile (1.6-kilometer) buffer around the APE extends into New Mexico. Approval by the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is pending; CMEC expects that access will be granted and the results of that background study can be incorporated into the draft and final versions of the report.

**Research Design**

Although a portion of the APE was covered by the Galván Eling Associates, Inc. survey, the previous study was conducted more than 20 years ago. CMEC will conduct an intensive survey of the entire 140-acre (57-hectare) APE per category 6 under 13 TAC 26.15 and using the definitions in 13 TAC 26.3. Field methods and strategies will comply with the requirements of relevant subsections of 13 TAC 26, as elaborated by the THC and the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA).

Based on the geographic setting, topography, geology, and soils in the APE, pedestrian examination supplemented by the excavation of shovel test units is anticipated. Shovel tests will be placed where ground surface visibility is below 30 percent, soils appear to be of sufficient depth to contain subsurface cultural materials, and/or previous disturbance appears minimal. All shovel tests will be excavated in natural levels to subsoil or 60 cm (24 in), whichever is encountered first. Excavated matrix will be screened through 0.635-cm (0.25-in) hardware cloth as allowed by moisture and clay content, which may require that the removed sediment be crumbled/sorted by hand, trowel, and/or shovel point. Deposits will be described using conventional texture classifications and Munsell color designations. Radial shovel tests will be placed at 5-m (16-ft) intervals around each shovel test positive for cultural material until two negative units have been established in each cardinal direction, as allowed by project limits, observed disturbance, and other constraints. Deviations from THC and CTA standards will be explicitly justified.

The project is located on privately owned land; therefore, diagnostic historic-age and prehistoric-age materials will be described and photographed in the field but not collected. At this time, full right of entry has been granted by WCS. However, if for any reason full access is not available at the time of the survey, a reasonable and good-faith effort will be made to document inaccessible areas from accessible areas for the purposes of the present permit. This permit would then be closed (assuming all work products and submittals meet THC/CTA requirements) and, if necessary, an additional permit application would be submitted at a future date when any remaining land becomes accessible.

Any site recorded during the investigation will be identified by a temporary marker placed on the site. The marker will have an identifying number in the form of the initials of the CMEC employee who recorded the site, followed by a consecutively assigned number that will indicate the order in which the sites were discovered (e.g. HR-01, HR-02, etc). This number is a temporary field number to be superseded by a formal site trinomial obtained following the completion of fieldwork (see below). Site designations will be applied only to features (whether surface or subsurface) that appear to represent occupation or activity areas and/or to clusters of artifacts (whether surface or subsurface), with the minimum threshold of two contiguous positive shovel test units.

CMEC personnel will keep a complete record of field notes supplemented by digital photographs, with observations including (but not limited to) identified sites, cultural materials, location markers, contextual

integrity, estimated time periods of occupations, vegetation, topography, hydrology, land use, soil exposures, general conditions at the time of the survey, and field techniques employed.

The project has a low probability of encountering human burials; however, if burials are found, Andrews County will be notified and all requirements of 8 THSC 711 will be followed.

**Reporting and Curation**

Relevant field observations for any new sites discovered will be transferred to TexSite forms and submitted to TARL for official recording and integration into the trinomial system. An analysis of recorded materials and site characteristics will be performed, and the results presented in a clear and concise manner. These data will be used to formulate a preliminary evaluation of the NRHP and/or SAL eligibility of each site, as well as a recommendation for further work or no further work, supported by explicit justifications (36 CFR 60; 36 CFR 800; 13 TAC 26.3; 13 TAC 26.10; 13 TAC 26.16). Data, sites recorded, and NRHP/SAL eligibility assessments will be presented in a standard draft survey report to be submitted to Andrews County, the NRC, and the THC. Per 13 TAC 26.16, the final permit-closure submittal to the THC will include a transmittal letter, abstract form, project area shapefile, tagged PDF files of the report in both restricted (with site locations) and public (without site locations) versions, as applicable. Copies of the public version of the report will be made available to future researchers at 11 repositories across the state; project records and artifacts (if applicable) will be curated at CAS per 13 TAC 26.16 and 26.17. It is understood that following submittal of records to CAS for curation, CAS will supply an approved Curation form to the THC as well as a Held-in-Trust form to be completed by personnel at the THC prior to the approval of permit closure.

**References**


Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG)

1976 *Geological Atlas of Texas, Hobbs Sheet.* University of Texas at Austin. Available at http://twbd.state.tx.us/groundwater/acquifer/GAT/hobbs.htm. Accessed April 22, 2015.

Galván Eling Associates, Inc.

1994 *Cultural Resource Survey of a Proposed Waste Facility, Andrews County, Texas.* Letter Report. Galván Eling Associates, Inc., Austin.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

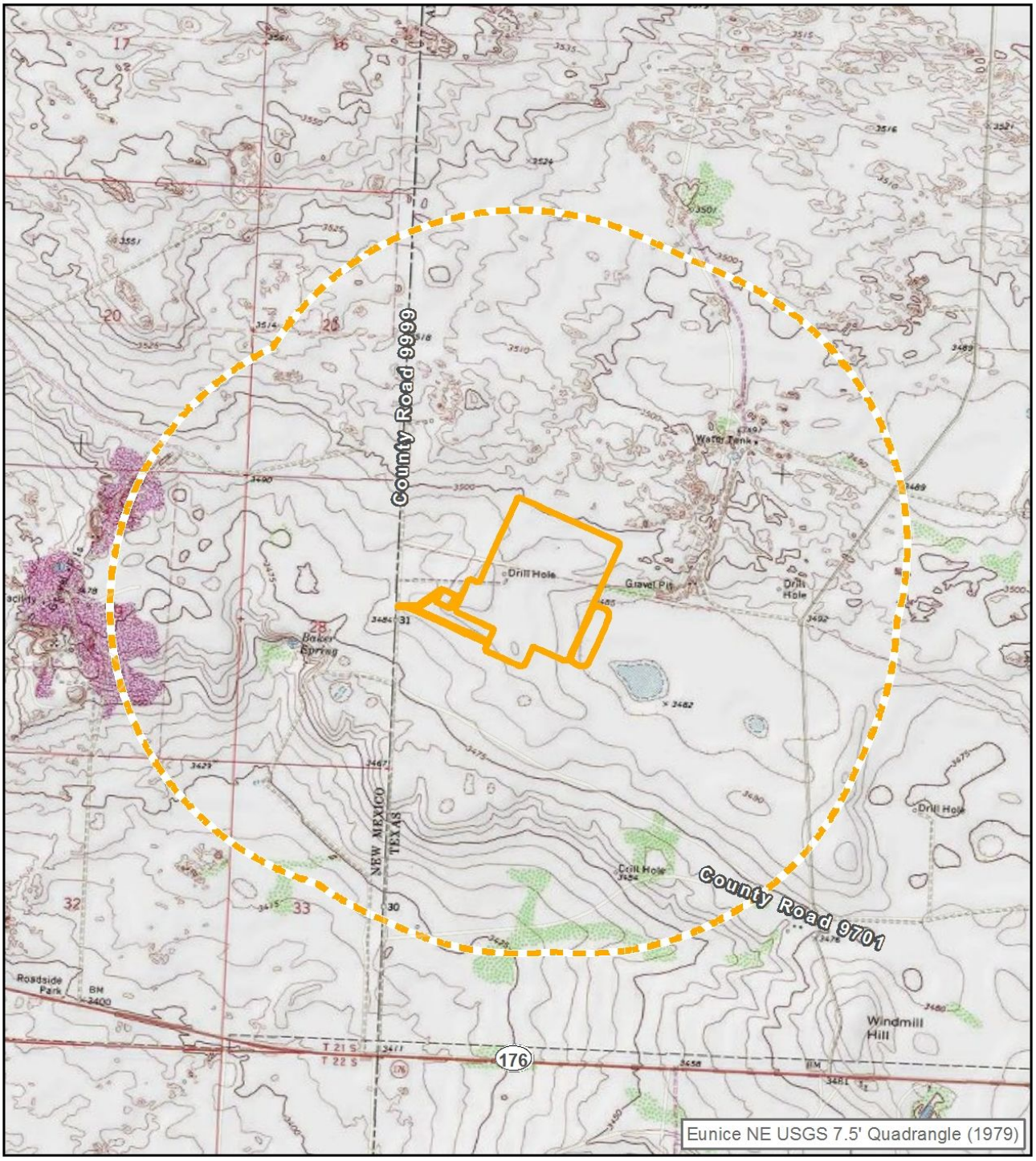
2015 NRCS SSURGO and STATSGO soil data viewed through SoilWeb KMZ interface for Google Earth, available at http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/soilweb/. U.S. Department of Agriculture and California Soil Resource Laboratory, University of California, Davis. Accessed April 22, 2015.

Texas Historical Commission (THC)

2015 *Texas Archeological Sites Atlas*. Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and the Texas Historical Commission. Available at http://nueces.thc.state.tx.us. Accessed April 22, 2015.


**Figures**

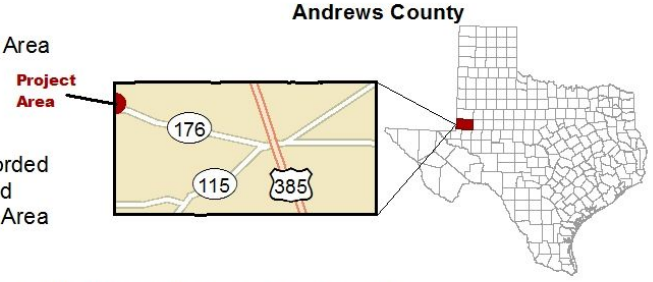
1. Location of archeological APE (topo base)
2. Location of archeological APE (aerial base)




Project APE

1-mile Buffer Study Area

Note: no previously recorded Texas resources mapped within the APE or Study Area




Sources: THC (2015), TARL (2015), NHD (2014), National Geographic Society (2013)

0 3,000 Feet

0 800 Meters

# Figure 1

## Location of Archeological APE

COX | McLAIN Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 3,000 feet |
| | Scale: 1:36,000 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 4/28/2015 |

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Project APE

0 2,000 Feet
0 600 Meters

# Figure 2

## Aerial Photograph

COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 2,000 feet |
| | Scale: 1:24,000 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 4/28/2015 |

Aeria Source: NAIP (2014)

G:\Projects\WCS\Arch_Figure 2_Aerial_20150428.mxd

COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

**TRANSMITTAL MEMO**

**Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.**
6010 Balcones Drive, Suite 210
Austin, TX 78731
www.coxmclain.com
(512) 338-2223

To: Tiffany Osburn, THC

CC: Scott Kirk, WCS

RECEIVED
JUL 02 2015

From: Chris Dayton, CMEC

Date: 07/02/15

RE: Draft Report Submittal: *Intensive Archeological Survey of the Proposed Waste Control Specialists Spent Nuclear Fuel Consolidated Interim Storage Facility, Andrews County, Texas* (NRC)

Dear Ms. Osburn:

Please find enclosed one (1) unbound copy of the draft report *Intensive Archeological Survey of the Proposed Waste Control Specialists Spent Nuclear Fuel Consolidated Interim Storage Facility, Andrews County, Texas*. The work was carried out under Texas Antiquities Permit 7277 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

The archeological area of potential effects (APE) consists of the 216.6-acre footprint of the proposed facility. The APE was found to be heavily disturbed by recent grading and road construction and also contained ubiquitous evidence of chaining, root-plowing, and/or brush-hogging in the last several decades, likely related to the parcel's previous use for livestock ranching. The survey consisted of pedestrian examination due to the extent of previous disturbance, the lack of alluvial or dune deposits in the APE, and the high visibility of the ground surface. No archeological materials of any kind were observed within the APE, and no further work is recommended within the APE prior to the construction of the proposed storage facility.

Please do not hesitate to call or email if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Chris Dayton, PhD, RPA
chris@coxmclain.com
(512) 338-2223

NO HISTORIC PROPERTIES AFFECTED
PROJECT MAY PROCEED
by
for Mark Wolfe
State Historic Preservation Officer
Date 7/29/15
Track# 201810249

July 8, 2015

Jeff Pappas, PhD
State Historic Preservation Officer and Director
New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
Department of Cultural Affairs
Bataan Memorial Building
407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236
Santa Fe, NM 87501

**Re: Project Review under Section 106 for a Proposed Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility**

Dear Dr. Pappas:

Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS) intends to file an application for a license for the independent storage of spent nuclear fuel and reactor-related, greater-than-Class C wastes at a site in western Andrews County, Texas (see **Figure 1**, attached). These activities are regulated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC); the project is therefore subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The site is in the northwestern-most corner of Andrews County and is immediately adjacent to the Texas/New Mexico state line. Because a portion of the area of potential effect (APE) for visual/indirect effects extends into New Mexico, we are seeking your input on the project.

A previous license for disposal of low-level radioactive waste on the WCS complex was coordinated with Lisa Meyer in your office in July 2006 (file reference 078585). The New Mexico SHPO concurred that there would be no historic properties affected on July 21, 2006.

Coordination with the Texas Historical Commission (THC), the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer, has been completed for historic resources and is underway for archeological resources. On May 6, 2015, the THC concurred with the recommendations made by architectural historians at Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting (CMEC), that no historic properties would be affected and that the project may proceed. In May 2015, CMEC archeologists conducted an archeological survey under Texas Antiquities Permit 7277. No archeological resources were found within the proposed footprint; reporting of these results is currently in process.

**Project Description**

WCS is requesting authorization from the NRC to construct and operate a Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel (CISF) storage facility for spent nuclear fuel on approximately 216.6 acres of land within the approximately 14,000-acre complex owned by WCS (see **Figure 2**). The project is located in a sparsely populated area, with the town of Eunice, New Mexico located approximately five miles west of the site. The area is surrounded by a high density of oil wells to the west and some oil wells to the north; there is little development to the south and east, excluding portions of the existing WCS facility. Operations at the WCS facility began in 1994; none of the development is historic-age.

The proposed facility would house a dry cask storage system. WCS is exploring several different options for the system. One option would be an above-ground system utilizing several low-rise buildings (see **Figure 3**), while another option would store the casks underground. Both the above-ground and below-

ground design options are assumed to require the presence of a crane approximately 60 feet in height during the operating license timeframe.

**Historic Resources**

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for direct impacts is proposed as the project footprint (see **Figure 4**). Taking into consideration the height of the crane that would be required, the height of the potential above-ground facility, and the relatively flat surrounding terrain, the APE for indirect/visual impacts is proposed as a one-mile radius from the proposed project footprint (see **Figure 4**). WCS anticipates that the NRC will issue a Final Environmental Impact Statement by April 2018; issuance of the license is expected by April 2019. Therefore, a historic-age date of 1974 (45 years prior to 2019) is proposed.

According to a search of the digital Sites Atlas maintained by the THC and a search of the New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System (NMCRIS), there are no previously-identified non-archeological historic resources located within the APE for direct or indirect impacts. The nearest previously identified resource in Texas is the historical marker for Andrews County, located approximately 17 miles southeast of the project area. The closest historic resource in New Mexico is "HCPI 37299" (building at 703 Ruth Circle, Eunice, Lea County), located approximately 4.5 miles from the site.

Adjacent to the WCS facility to the west is a large uranium enrichment plant called the National Enrichment Facility, operated by URENCO USA. This facility was developed within the past 15 years. The proposed project area is located in a sparsely populated area of Texas with little development aside from the non-historic age WCS and URENCO USA facilities. The proposed project would not result in a direct effect to any historic resources.

The nearest developed area is Eunice, New Mexico, which is located approximately five miles west of the proposed site. There are two large visual obstructions between viewers in Eunice and the proposed crane at the site: red soil mounds approximately 100 feet in height on WCS property, and the Urenco facility (see **Figure 5**). Based on information from WCS, the soil mounds will be in place indefinitely or potentially utilized as fill. As illustrated in **Photos 3-5** in the attached photo sheets, the red soil mounds and the Urenco facility are visible from the outskirts of Eunice but tend to dissolve visually into the horizon. Excluding the crane, the CISF storage facility would be approximately 30 feet above the surface and less visible from Eunice than existing features and structures.

**Archeological Resources**

According to the Atlas/NMCRIS search referenced above, no cemeteries, State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs), or archeological sites have been recorded in the project area or within one mile (NMDCA 2015; THC 2015). The closest known resources, five prehistoric sites, are all located in New Mexico, just outside the one-mile study buffer. Sites LA140701, LA140702, LA140703, LA140704, and LA140705 are all surface and near-surface scatters of fire-cracked rock, flaking debris, and ground stone recorded in an aeolian dune field by Western Cultural Resource Management during a 2003 survey for the New Mexico State Land Office (NMDCA 2015). These sites were excavated prior to destruction of the dune field by the construction of the National Enrichment Facility.

In May 2015, a pedestrian archeological survey was completed under Texas Antiquities Permit 7277. The archeological APE consists of the 216.6-acre footprint of the proposed spent fuel site. The APE was found

to be heavily disturbed by recent grading and road construction and also contained ubiquitous evidence of chaining, root-plowing, and/or brush-hogging in the last several decades, likely related to the parcel's previous use for livestock ranching (see **Photos 6-8**). The survey consisted of pedestrian examination due to the lack of alluvial or dune deposits in the APE and the high visibility of the uneven, disturbed, burrowed ground surface. No archeological materials of any kind were observed within the APE, and no further work is recommended within the APE prior to the construction of the proposed storage facility.

A draft report with the observations and recommendations above is currently in preparation and will be submitted to Andrews County, the THC, and the NRC.

**Request for Concurrence**
It is the professional opinion of CMEC cultural resources personnel that further cultural resources investigations are not warranted prior to construction. We ask for your concurrence with this finding.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at EmilyR@coxmclain.com or 512-338-2223.

Sincerely,

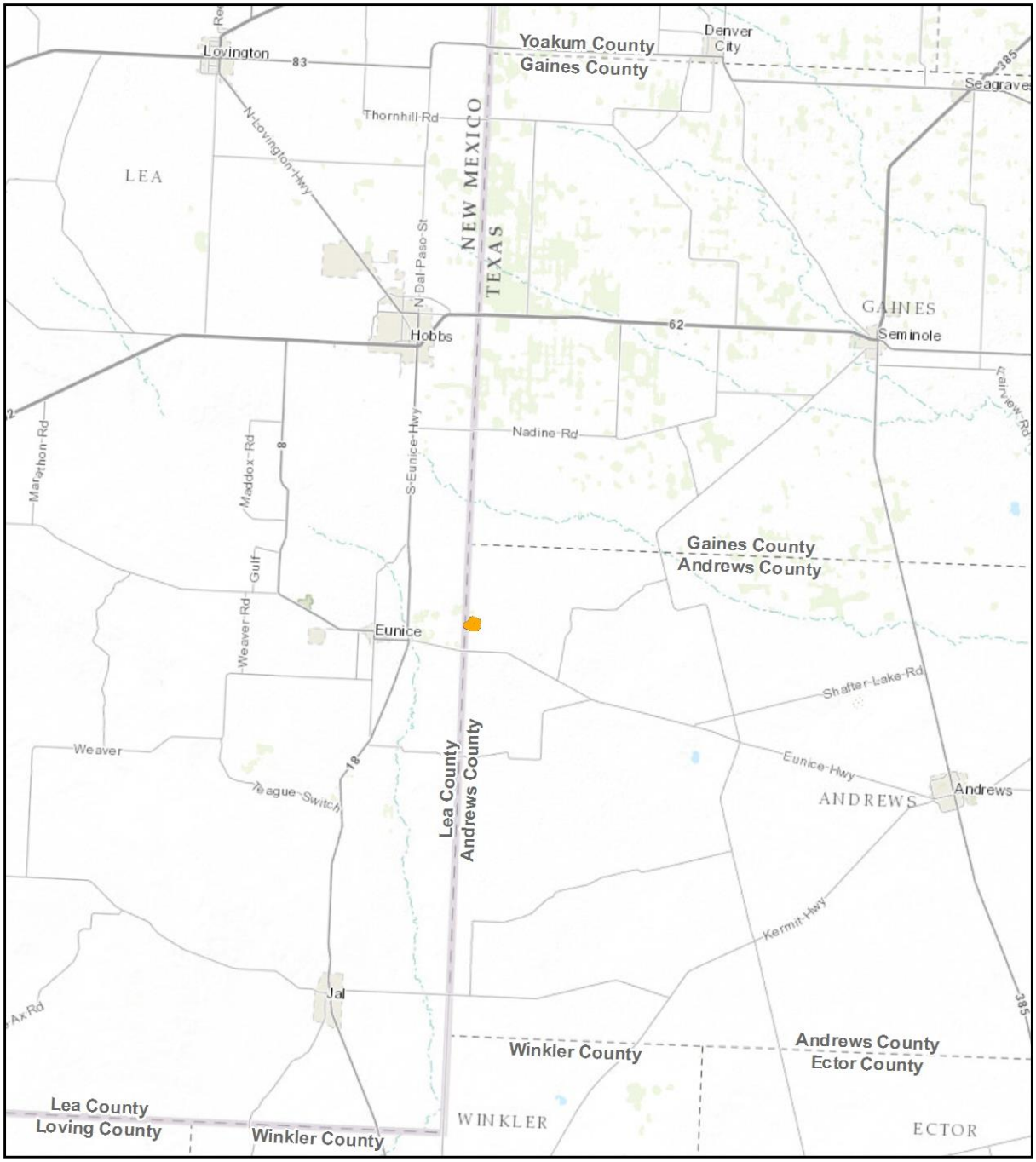
Emily Reed, Architectural Historian/ Project Manager
Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.

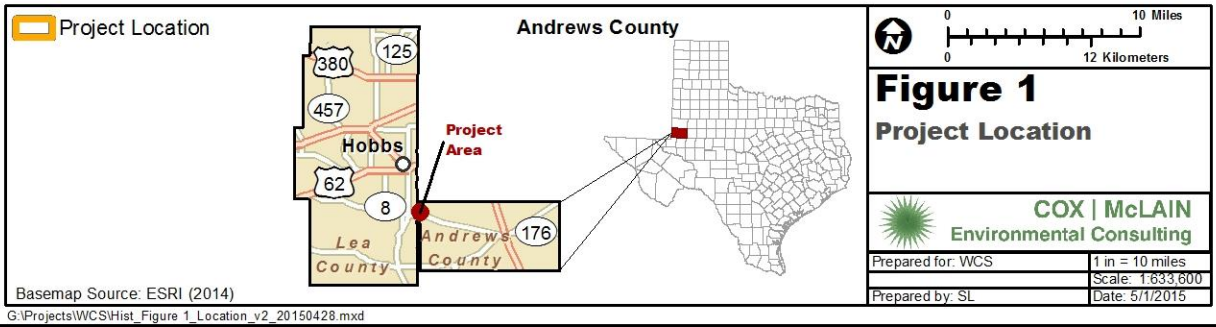
**Attachments**
Figure 1: General Project Location Map
Figure 2: Detail Facility Map
Figure 3: Potential CISF Storage Facility Site Design Renderings
Figure 4: Proposed APE for Historic Resources
Figure 5: Viewshed Analysis
Contextual Photographs

**References**

New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs (NMDCA)
2015 *New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System (NMCRIS)*. DCA Historic Preservation Division, Archaeological Records Management Section. Available at https://nmcris.dca.state.nm.us, accessed June 8, 2015.

Texas Historical Commission (THC)
2015 *Texas Archeological Sites Atlas*. Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and the Texas Historical Commission. Available at http://nueces.thc.state.tx.us. Accessed April 22, 2015.



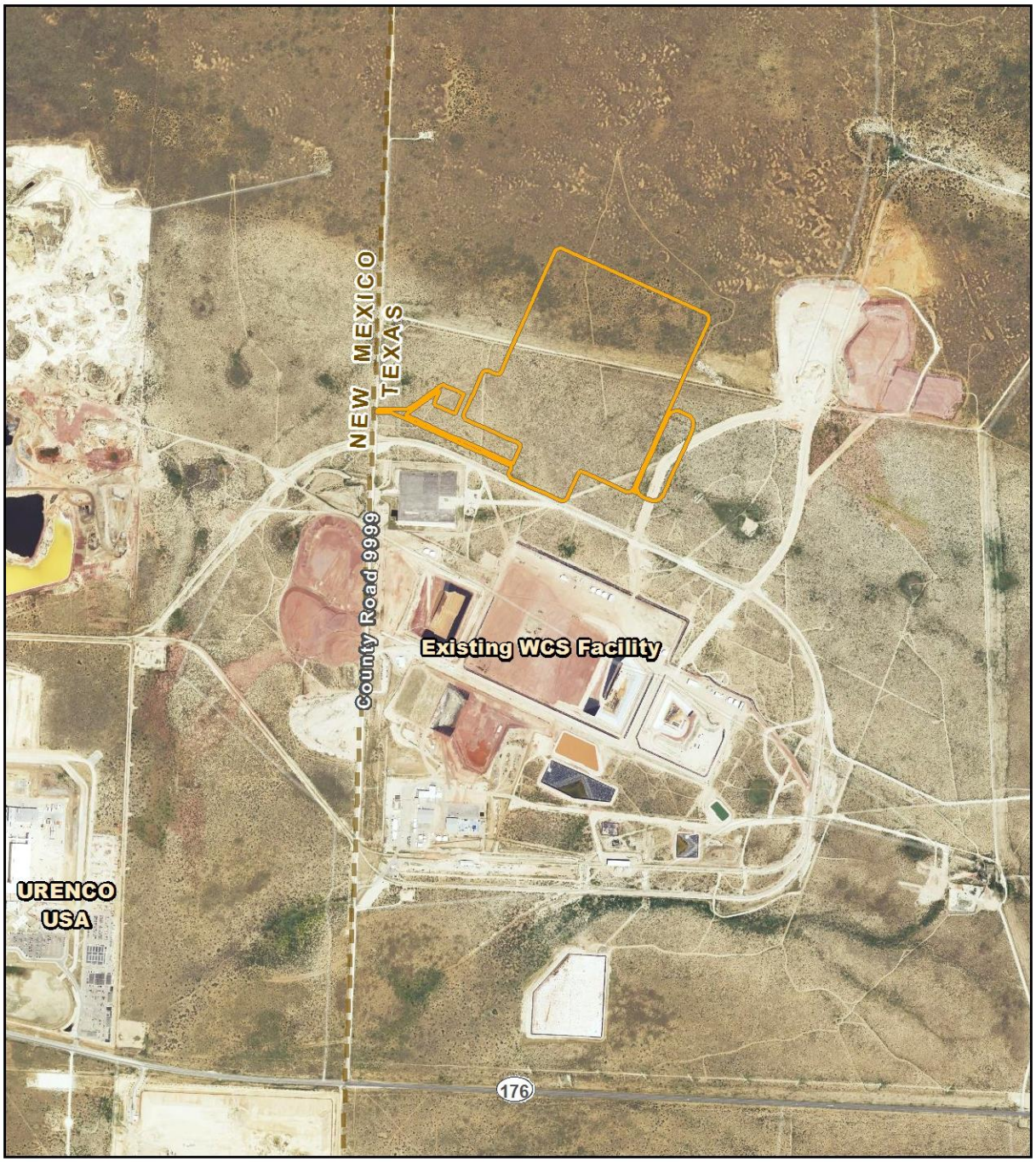




# Figure 1
## Project Location

COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 10 miles |
| | Scale: 1:633,600 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 5/1/2015 |

G:\Projects\WCS\Hist_Figure 1_Location_v2_20150428.mxd




Project Footprint

0 2,000 Feet
0 600 Meters

# Figure 2

## Aerial Photograph

COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 2,000 feet |
| | Scale: 1:24,000 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 5/4/2015 |

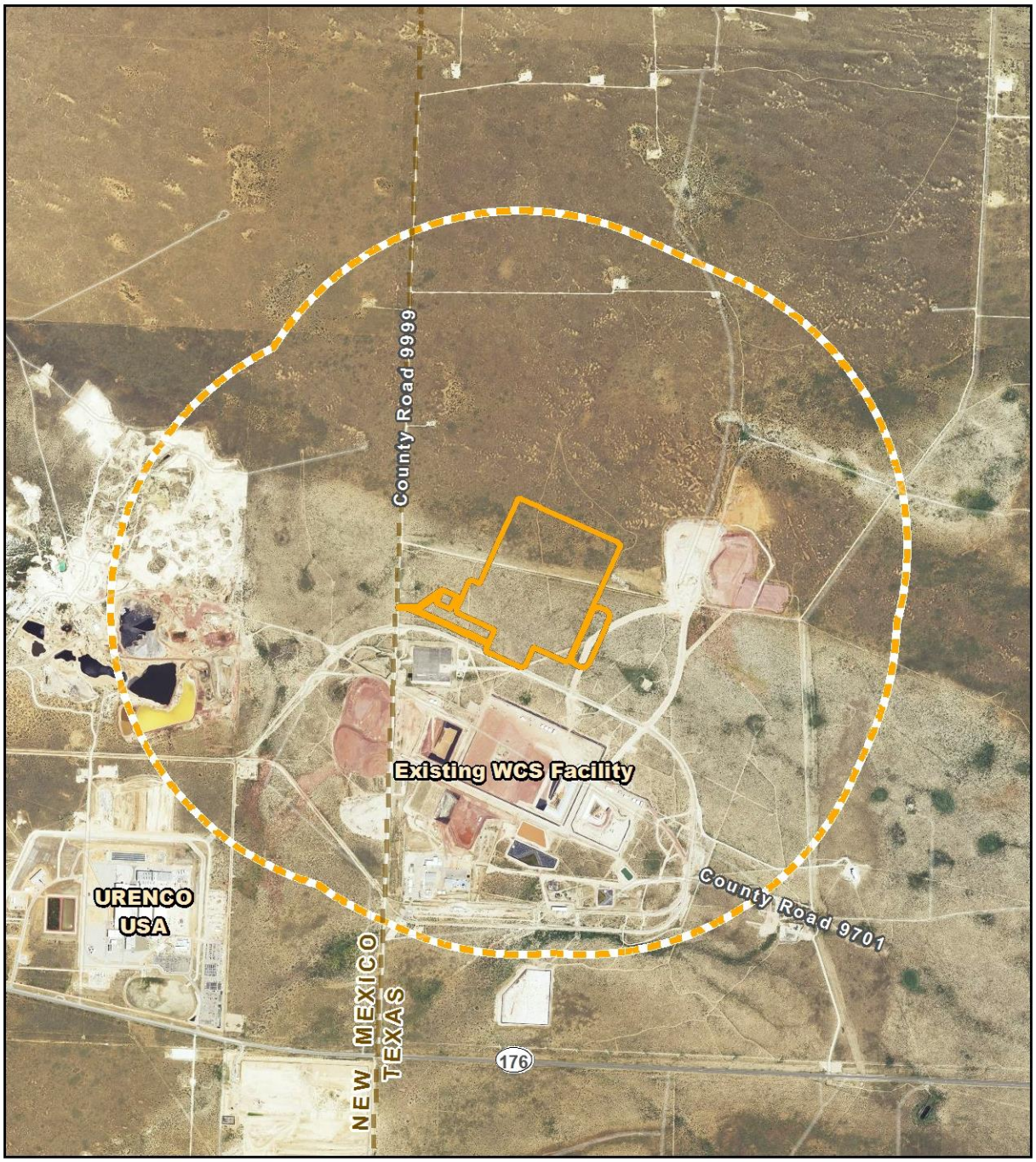
Aeria Source: NAIP (2014)

G:\Projects\WCS\Hist_Figure 2_Aerial_20150428.mxd

AMERICA'S NUCLEAR SOLUTION

# POTENTUAL ISFSI SITE RENDERINGS

**Figure 3**
**Potential Storage Facility Site Design Renderings**




APE for Direct Impacts (project footprint)
APE for Indirect/Visual Impacts (1-mile radius)

Note: no previously recorded
Texas resources mapped
within either APE

Sources: THC (2015), TARL (2015)
Aerial Source: NAIP (2014)

0 3,000 Feet
0 800 Meters

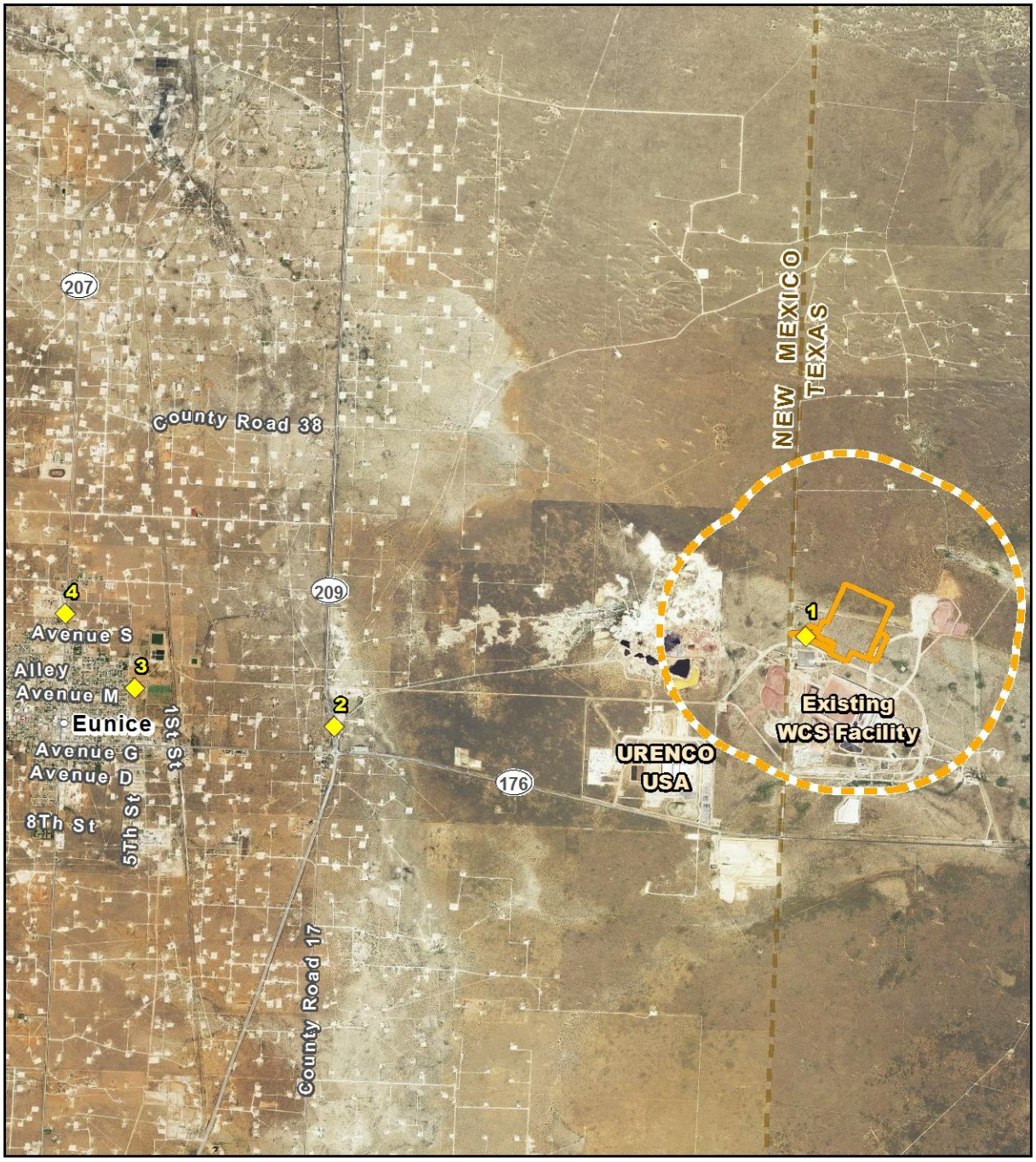
# Figure 4

## Location of Historic Area of Potential Effect

COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 3,000 feet |
| | Scale: 1:36,000 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 5/4/2015 |

G:\Projects\WCS\Hist_Figure 4_APE_20150428.mxd




APE for Direct Impacts (project footprint)
APE for Indirect/Visual Impacts (1-mile radius)
Photo Location

0 1.25 Miles
0 1.5 Kilometers

# Figure 5
## Viewshed Analysis

COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

| | |
|---|---|
| Prepared for: WCS | 1 in = 1.25 miles |
| | Scale: 1:79,200 |
| Prepared by: SL | Date: 5/1/2015 |

Source: CMEC (2015)
Aerial Source: NAIP (2014)

G:\Projects\WCS\Hist_Figure 5_Viewshed Analysis_20150430.mxd

**Contextual Photographs**

Photo 1. View of proposed site, looking north.


Photo 2. View from proposed site on WCS property looking southwest towards red soil pile (see Photo Point 1 on **Figure 5**).

Photo 3. View looking east towards the proposed site from Photo Point 2 (see **Figure 5**). Note the URENCO facility barely visible on the horizon.

Photo 4. View looking east from Photo Point 3 (see **Figure 5**).

Photo 5. View looking east from Photo Point 4 (see **Figure 5**).

Photo 6. Looking east near east side of archeological APE with eastern sand/gravel pit in background. Note disturbed, highly visible surface with common caliche fragments.

Photo 7. View west from east side of archeological APE. Red fill pile across Texas/New Mexico state line is visible in the background.

Photo 8. Close-up of typical ground surface. Note burrows. Also note mesquite stump fragment at lower left from previous clearing.

Susana Martinez
Governor

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS**
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION**

BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING
407 GALISTEO STREET, SUITE 236
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
PHONE (505) 827-6320 FAX (505) 827-6338

August 12, 2015

Emily Reed
Cox/McLain Environmental Consulting
6010 Balcones Drive ~~New Mexico State Parks Division~~ Ste 210
~~1220 South St. Francis~~ Dr.
~~Santa Fe, NM 87501~~ Austin, TX 78731

RE: Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility (HPD log 101784)

Dear Ms. Reed,

On behalf of the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer (NMSHPO) I have completed a review of the information provided by Cox/McLain Environmental Consulting concerning the Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility in Andrews County, Texas. The NMSHPO appreciates your efforts to provide us with this information and to comment on the project's potential to affect historic properties in New Mexico. This letter provides NMSHPO comments for the project.

The SHPO concurs that no additional cultural resources identification efforts are needed for this undertaking with the condition that all new ground-disturbing and construction activities are confined to Texas. If, however, any construction related ground- disturbances such as staging areas, equipment or materials storage yards, or access roads are needed in New Mexico, then a cultural resource survey will be required to identify and evaluate historic properties in the area of potential effects.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call me directly at (505) 827-4225 or email me bob.estes@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

Bob Estes

Bob Estes Ph.D.
HPD Staff Archaeologist