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**Docket:** NRC-2016-0231

Waste Control Specialists LLC's Consolidated Interim Spent Fuel Storage Facility Project

**Comment On:** NRC-2016-0231-0317

Interim Storage Partners Consolidated Interim Storage Facility Project

**Document:** NRC-2016-0231-DRAFT-0327

Comment on FR Doc # 2020-09795

## Submitter Information

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## General Comment

I am writing to oppose the above-ground storage of nuclear waste in west Texas. I also oppose nuclear power until & unless the spent fuel can be proven to be neutralized & will not harm people or the environment. As I understand it, the proposed site for spent fuel from all over the country is located on or near the Ogallala Aquifer, the nation's largest aquifer, which stretches from Texas to South Dakota. Any accident or damage to the stored fuel there could contaminate the source of water throughout the region for centuries, since the spent fuel remains highly toxic, and the only way it will become harmless is through decay, which can take hundreds of thousands of years, according to the NRC. The proposal is for "temporary" storage of 5,000 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel at its 14,000-acre site in Andrews County, with plans to store up to 40,000 metric tons. The plan is to store it for 40 years, until a permanent storage site can be located, with an option to extend the license at 20-year intervals. The storage canisters would be transported by rail from operating, decommissioning and decommissioned commercial nuclear power plants around the country. If the plan is approved, the highly deadly spent fuel rods from the nation's nuclear reactors would pass through the state's urban centers, including Dallas-Fort Worth, by rail. Given recent railroad accidents, extreme weather events and the threat of terrorism, there is more than sufficient reason to doubt the safety of the proposed plan. Further, the plan is only a stopgap to dealing with the waste. While Waste Control Specialists has operated a low-level radioactive waste dump since 2012, the facility is not built to store high level radioactive waste permanently. Once at the site, the canisters will sit above ground on a "parking lot" exposed to extremes of weather, and will become a defacto high level radioactive dump because no one will want to move the material again.

I live in Arlington, Texas, within a short distance from the rail line passing through Tarrant County, and I strenuously object to the plan to transport this toxic radioactive material to a "temporary" site in west Texas.