



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

October 9, 2020

Mr. Jeffrey D. Isakson
Chief Executive Officer/President
Interim Storage Partners LLC
P.O. Box 1129
Andrews, TX 79714

**SUBJECT: INTERIM STORAGE PARTNERS LLC'S APPLICATION FOR A SPECIFIC
INDEPENDENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE INSTALLATION LICENSE FOR THE
WASTE CONTROL SPECIALISTS CONSOLIDATED INTERIM STORAGE
FACILITY FOR SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL – REVISED REVIEW SCHEDULE**

Dear Mr. Isakson:

By letter dated July 19, 2018 (NRC Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML18206A595), Interim Storage Partners LLC (ISP), a joint venture of Waste Control Specialists LLC (WCS) and Orano CIS LLC (a subsidiary of Orano USA), requested that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) resume all safety and environmental review activities associated with the proposed WCS Consolidated Interim Storage Facility (WCS CISF) license application. The NRC staff reviewed your request and concluded that the revised license application provided information sufficient to resume its detailed review and on August 21, 2018, provided a schedule for completing the review (ML18225A281).

On May 31, 2019, ISP submitted a schedule for responding to the requests for additional information (RAI) in support of the continued review of the WCS CISF license application (ML19156A059). The NRC staff determined that due to the amount of time ISP requested for providing responses to the staff's RAI, it would extend its previously established schedule for the review. On July 1, 2019, the NRC staff revised its schedule for the completion of the safety, security, and environmental reviews (ML19182A107). Consistent with this revised schedule, the staff published the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on May 4, 2020. On May 8, 2020, NRC staff published a *Federal Register* notice (FRN) providing a 120-day opportunity to provide comments on the draft EIS. In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the NRC published a second FRN on July 22, 2020, granting a 60-day extension to the public comment period. The public comment period now closes on November 3, 2020.

As a result of this extension, the NRC staff has revised its schedule for the completion of its environmental review. The revised schedule for the environmental review will now provide for the staff to publish a final EIS by July 2021. For its safety and security review, the staff expects to complete its final safety evaluation report (SER) by May 2021, as stated in its July 1, 2019, letter.

In our January 26, 2017, letter announcing our decision to begin a detailed review (ML17018A168), the staff estimated that the costs required to complete the review of the application and make a licensing decision would be approximately 7.5 million dollars. The

staff determined that the updated total estimated cost of the project is 8.5 million dollars. The reasons for the cost increase include the extra level of effort to 1) restart the review of the application after a one-year suspension, 2) hold meetings with your staff to ensure a common understanding of the information necessary to respond to the staff's RAs, and 3) address the extensive number of EIS scoping comments and the anticipated number of draft EIS comments.

If you have any questions regarding these matters, please contact the Project Manager, Mr. John-Chau Nguyen, at (301) 415-0262 or John-Chau.Nguyen@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

John B. McKirgan, Chief
Storage and Transportation Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 72-1050
CAC/EPID No. 001028/L-2017-NEW-0002

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DOCUMENT DATE: October 9, 2020

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