
Technical Review Team

Recommends License Denial

- 3-year TCEQ study finds Andrews County site unsafe for disposal of radioactive waste
 - Review team issues WCS two largest Technical Notices of Deficiency in history of agency
 - Review team is unanimous in recommendation to deny license to WCS
 - Team instructed to prepare draft license for Christmas release to minimize public comment
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Site Geology Found Inadequate

- Groundwater from two water tables threaten to intrude on buried radioactive waste
 - Groundwater believed closer than 14 feet to bottom of proposed disposal trench, despite original WCS assurance that groundwater was protected by “hundreds of feet of impermeable redbed clay.”
 - Even now, almost 6 years after license application was filed, WCS has failed to adequately characterize the geology of proposed waste site
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Excerpts of Denial Recommendation

- “Groundwater is likely to intrude into the proposed disposal units and contact the waste from either or both of two water tables near the proposed facility.”
 - “Intrusion of groundwater into the proposed disposal units will increase the mobility of radionuclides and the likelihood of public exposure to radioactivity during the period of analysis.”
 - “Natural site conditions cannot be improved through special license provisions.”
 - “Therefore, technical staff recommends denial of license issuance.”
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“Low-level” is Just a Name

- Wastes destined for disposal at WCS facility are some of the most radioactive substances in existence
 - Only plutonium pits from hydrogen bombs and fuel rods from nuclear power plants would be barred from disposal at WCS facilities under current regulations
 - Some proposed wastes have half lives of tens of thousands of years
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