



February 20, 2024

For comment and questions, please call Monica Perales at (956) 235-3417

Andrews County, Texas passes resolution banning Greater than Class C radioactive waste in an attempt to thwart the plans of Waste Control Specialists and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

MIDLAND, TEXAS — In response to a 2014 petition submitted by Waste Control Specialists to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the TCEQ then submitted a letter dated January 30, 2015, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regarding Texas' authority to license the disposal of Greater than Class C radioactive waste. Subsequent to that TCEQ letter, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission directed their staff to prepare a regulatory basis for the disposal of GTCC by means other than deep geologic disposal, including near-surface disposal.

The proposed change in federal regulations governing radioactive waste classified as more radioactive than Class C moved local residents to action. Yard signs, social media posts, and constituents petitioning the Commissioners Court have taken place since awareness of WCS' actions became public.

Due to an overwhelming consensus among residents, the Andrews County Commissioners Court unanimously passed a resolution banning the disposal of anything greater than Class C waste in their county and forbade the down blending of anything more radioactive than Class C in Andrews County.

As stated by resident Jose Bustamante during the Court's public comment period, "When WCS came to our community asking for a 75-million-dollar construction bond for their waste disposal operation, they promised that the disposal would be limited to Class A, B, and C waste. Andrews approved the bond based on that promise. Here, in Andrews, we are guided by our faith, our values, and our integrity, which teach us to do our best to keep our word. By asking the Federal government to change regulations in order to allow for the disposal of GTCC (waste) in Andrews, WCS is breaking their promise to our community. Therefore, I am asking this court to put WCS' promise in writing to ensure that they keep their word."