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## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Waste Control Specialists LLC  
5430 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1700  
Dallas, Texas 75240**

**CONTACT:**

**Rickey Dailey  
512-708-8655**

### **WCS: Draft License Important Step in Answering Texas' Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Needs**

DALLAS, TEXAS ... August 12, 2008 ... Waste Control Specialists LLC (“WCS”) said the state of Texas took a critical first step today in meeting its low-level radioactive waste (“LLRW”) disposal needs when the Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (“TCEQ”) issued WCS a draft license for the near-surface disposal of Class A, B and C LLRW at WCS’ site in Andrews County, Texas.

“We are gratified the TCEQ's Executive Director and his staff have issued this draft license and have recommended its issuance to the TCEQ Commissioners,” said William J. Lindquist, Chief Executive Officer of WCS. “This is an important milestone for WCS, the people of Andrews and Lea Counties and the states of Texas and Vermont, as members of the Texas Compact,” said William J. Lindquist, Chief Executive Officer of WCS. “In addition to providing more than 75 new jobs at our Andrews County facility, this license will ensure that Texas and Vermont hospitals, universities, power plants and other enterprises will be able to continue operating with the knowledge that there is an assured solution for the permanent disposal of their LLRW. With the support of the Andrews County and Lea County communities and the Permian Basin, WCS is proud to offer a solution.”

“With the closure of the Barnwell facility in South Carolina last month, Texas hospital and university administrators have expressed concern regarding the need for a commercial facility that can properly dispose of Class A, B and C LLRW so that the diagnosis, treatment and research of cancer and other life threatening diseases, which

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generate such wastes, can continue. The only U.S. commercial facility currently authorized to accept LLRW is limited to dispose of Class A waste," Mr. Lindquist said.

Mr. Lindquist added, "In addition, this LLRW disposal license will allow WCS to provide a significant service in our country's quest for energy independence. In the next 15 – 20 years, Texas is expected to double its existing power generation capacity to accommodate increased demand and retiring power plants. Because only 7% of Texas' current generating capacity comes from nuclear power, compared to 20% nationally, much of this increased capacity will likely be nuclear generated. The LLRW waste generated from this increased capacity will have the disposal capacity needed in Texas at WCS."

### **LLRW Disposal Mirrors Current Activities Licensed to WCS**

The permanent disposal of LLRW will be very similar to activities WCS is currently permitted to perform under a byproduct disposal license issued in May by TCEQ. Both types of waste are primarily soil-like material and the disposal methods and disposal sites are similar.

Rodney A. Baltzer, President of WCS said, "There are many similarities between the byproduct license and the LLRW license. The disposal will occur on the 1,300 acres we have already permitted through TCEQ. The landfills will have similar designs, including liners and permanent covers, and disposal will be in the site's almost impenetrable red bed claystones."

"Both disposal operations will create a very stable, supportive disposal structure and both sites will be protective of the environment and public health for thousands of years to come," Baltzer said.

WCS has more than ten years experience disposing of hazardous and toxic waste at its current site, and it will have a year's experience disposing of byproduct waste by the time LLRW disposal operations begin, if authorized under a final license.

"WCS personnel are highly experienced in the safe, permanent disposal of toxic and hazardous waste and will soon begin disposing of byproduct material according to stringent state and federal guidelines and oversight. We appreciate the confidence the TCEQ's Executive Director and staff have placed in WCS in issuing this draft LLRW disposal license," Baltzer said.

The WCS LLRW disposal license application, an overview of the WCS LLRW disposal license application, a timeline of the remaining licensing process and the draft LLRW disposal license may be found at [www.wcstexas.com](http://www.wcstexas.com) under Documents & Forms.

The WCS facility in Andrews County, Texas is currently licensed for the processing, storage and disposal of a broad range of hazardous and toxic waste, byproduct material and certain types of low-level and mixed LLRW. WCS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of



Valhi, Inc. (NYSE: VHI). Valhi is engaged in the titanium dioxide pigments, component products (security products, furniture components and performance marine components) and waste management industries.

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