

COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF WCS & IMPORTATION/EXPORTATION RULES – COMPACT COMMISSION, APRIL - 2010

**David K. Henderson
April 6, 2010**

My name is David Henderson from Midland, Texas, and I proudly work at WCS. We welcome you members of the commission as well as other out-of-town guests to this public meeting tonight. We have great hope that you will feel the friendly atmosphere that we think is unique to the West Texas and Eastern New Mexico areas.

Personally, I am speaking from a viewpoint as a relatively new employee at WCS (with about 2 years experience here and over 35 years business experience in the Permian Basin area.) While here at WCS, I have participated in the most extensive training and indoctrination programs that I have ever been exposed to – bar none! From radiation safety awareness through

proper conduct of operations, we are trained. And, continual refresher courses and personal-improvement and occupational-improvement lessons are required of all employees as well.

As most employees with pride in their workplace will tell you, working day-to-day with your fellow employees entails much more than just “clocking in” and “putting in the hours until retirement.” We build relationships with each other that encompass not only common task accomplishments, but involve daily interactions with each other in what I refer to as “our workplace family.” We can depend on each other as we obtain our shared work goals and we share with each other in the successes as well as the heartbreaks of our personal lives. One day, we may be elbow-to-elbow in properly handling hazardous waste, inspecting transportation modes, or cleaning rail cars for proper release to public

transit. The next day, we may be playing on a softball team together, eating a potluck lunch, sharing a laugh or bragging on the success of one of our children or grand children, or holding hands with an employee who is going through an illness or has lost a loved one.

Just as we attempt to be good family members, we strive to be good neighbors as well. We race to cure cancer. We give money to United Way so that they can spread resources to those who are less fortunate than we are. We collect and distribute Christmas toys to kids who may not be having as great a time as our kids are. We recycle and we pitch-in to clean city parks. We help kids go to camp and we help kids go to college. We support fine arts and we really support fine barbeque and chili. Being a good neighbor is an aggressive goal for WCS. It is one of our core values to be excellent citizens in our communities.

Let me mention the quality of the professionals and dedicated workers that work with me at WCS. Daily, I see the concentrated efforts of our departmental teams to provide responsible, quality services to our customers. We strive to keep open communication lines available so that the entire facility is on the same page. We are responsible to each other and lean on each other to complete mutually rewarding tasks. We have a litany of university degrees and years and years of “on-the-job” training experience. Heck, we still have employee #1 helping to lead us into the future. We pre-plan jobs and we accomplish mock training exercises prior to task completions. We evaluate and critique our work with an eye towards quality achievements.

Also, there is a four-lettered word being bantered around that I would like to address. Just like you, I

sometimes drive around and comment on my neighbor's homes or businesses:

“Look how great that home looks!” – Or:

“They should mow more or tidy up their yard.” – Or:

“Oh my, what a dump!”

Characterization of the WCS workplace as a DUMP is inaccurate at best, and most offensive, and is frivolously used by those who do not have first-hand knowledge of our facilities. We, as employees, take umbrage to such uninformed comments. We don't make special trips across Texas just to blast other businesses or individuals. However, we would invite those guests here tonight from other communities to relocate to our little spot of heaven on earth. We do enact our pride through sound safety policies and thorough housekeeping practices. Once you tour our fine facility, it will impress even the most outspoken critic.

Ka-ching! That's the sound of the cash register at local businesses that our employees frequent. We eat at the restaurants here, we buy gas and groceries here, we have parties and picnics here, and we pay taxes here. I've been a business owner and know the value of customers plopping down their hard-earned money. The consultants say that for every \$1 spent by local employees and businesses, another 70 cents is generated to influence the community as a financial consequence. Heck, the City of Andrews is right now studying ways how to prevent dollars earned here going elsewhere. In fact, they call it money "leaking" from the local community.

How does the saying go? Money isn't everything, but it sure ranks up there with oxygen on the "got to have it" scale.

The financial influence of WCS will be attractive to the future.....and felt for generations.

And a short word about our future.....many of kids leave Small Town, America to go to college and end up elsewhere. Right now, UTPB provides a nuclear energy education program where our local students can gain a degree right here in our backyard. Then, the local job market will be able to welcome these great kids back and into their projected futures.

So, in summary, I stand in support WCS and the commitments that we, on the WCS team, have made to properly treat, store, or dispose of specialty waste streams in the future. In addition, I strongly support the importation and exportation rules as written to properly solve the national problem of low level hazardous waste disposal.

**As stated before, we own GOOD EARTH; we employ
GOOD PEOPLE; we enact GOOD SCIENCE; and we work
in partnership with GOOD OVERSIGHT to lead our
country towards responsible waste management – Now,
and into the future!**

Thank you all for your time.