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## PRESS RELEASE

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

DALLAS, TEXAS ... January 14, 2009 ... Waste Control Specialists LLC (“WCS”) today announced that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (“TCEQ”) has issued WCS a final license for the near-surface disposal of Class A, B and C low-level radioactive waste (“LLRW”) at its site in Andrews County, Texas.

The license allows WCS to operate a Texas Compact (comprised of Texas and Vermont) LLRW disposal facility and a federal LLRW disposal facility.

“WCS and the citizens of Andrews and Lea counties and the Permian Basin have been waiting for this day for many years. The state of Texas will now be able to meet its obligations to the power plants, hospitals, universities, research institutes and other industrial generators in the Texas Compact to permanently dispose of their low-level radioactive waste,” said William J. Lindquist, Chief Executive Officer of WCS.

“This final license combined with the recently issued byproduct material disposal license and our existing permits and licenses gives WCS the broadest range of capabilities of any commercial enterprise in the United States for the storage, treatment and permanent disposal of hazardous, toxic, low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste and radioactive byproduct material. The only U.S. commercial facility currently authorized to accept low-level and

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mixed LLRW is limited to disposing of Class A waste, while WCS will be able to permanently dispose of Class A, B and C low-level radioactive waste,” he said.

“With today’s vote, TCEQ commissioners made their vision for a better Texas a reality. The TCEQ recognized the implications this license held for Texas families and acted accordingly. WCS is grateful that the TCEQ has entrusted us with the responsibility to dispose of waste resulting from activities that affect all our lives every day in a manner that will protect human health and the environment for thousands of years to come,” Lindquist said.

“With the support of the Andrews County and Lea County communities and the Permian Basin, WCS is proud to offer a solution,” Lindquist said.

Rodney A. Baltzer, President of WCS said the license will require the hiring of about 75 new employees at its Andrews County facility, and WCS has the expertise and experience to meet its new responsibilities.

“WCS has 10 years of experience disposing of hazardous and toxic waste and treating and storing low-level radioactive waste at its current site, and it will have at least a year’s experience disposing of radioactive byproduct material by the time low-level disposal operations begin,” he said.

“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. They are also highly experienced in the safe handling of waste similar to that which will be taking for disposal under this new license. We are eager to apply our expertise to low-level radioactive waste disposal,” Baltzer said.

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