

First large component disposal at Texas radioactive waste site

In August of 2014, Waste Control Specialists, the operator of Texas' low-level radioactive waste disposal site located in Andrews County, completed the first large component disposal operation for the site. Four steam generator lower assemblies (SGLAs) removed from the Point Beach Nuclear Plant near Two Rivers, Wisconsin, were transported approximately 2,200 miles via road, rail, and barge for safe disposal in Texas.

Disposal of the SGLAs, which weigh approximately 200 tons (400,000 pounds) each, required extensive planning and engineering design, all of which was reviewed and approved by the TCEQ. The SGLAs were transported to the foot of the disposal cell using specialized equipment, placed on stabilizing steel plates, and encased in approximately 1,800 cubic yards of concrete, which is rated with a compressive strength of 2,000 pounds per square inch. All disposal operations were conducted under the observation of the two resident inspectors deployed by the TCEQ.

