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EXCLUSIVE: Interview with WCS CEO Bill Lindquist  
Reported by: Jackie Smith  
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ANDREWS COUNTY -- Waste Control Specialists is ready to unveil their multi-decade project. The low-level radioactive waste disposal facility located along the Texas-New Mexico state line will have its grand opening Thursday.

WCS is the only company to obtain a low-level disposal license in the last 30 years. Big 2's Jackie Smith was the only TV reporter to sit down with the Waste Control Specialists CEO before the grand opening and brings us the exclusive report.

A one of a kind facility nestled on the far west side of Andrews County. The closest town, Andrews, Texas, has a population of just 13,000 people. But Waste Control Specialists knew from a glance this was the ground that would change history.

"You needed a supportive community," said WCS CEO Bill Lindquist. "And western Andrews County is the perfect location for that."

WCS CEO Bill Lindquist says West Texas is the only place this low level radioactive waste disposal site had any chance of existing. And that's all because West Texas is used to unusual industries.

"Oil and gas industries are not your run of the mill kind of industries," said Lindquist. "There are hazards and things that happen in the oil field. So people here understand and aren't turned off by that"

It was a perfect location. Especially since deep within the ground exists hundreds of feet of red clay.

"It's very impermeable and moisture doesn't move through it," said Lindquist. "The clay just absorbs things."

Where it's easy to lock in hazardous waste without contaminating the land. That's why Lindquist says, WCS is the only company in 31 years to get a low-level license under the Texas and Vermont State Compact.

"It's the first and probably only site that will open under that law," said Lindquist.

It took years for WCS to get the license then only ten months to finish construction. Only about 1,000 acres of the 15,000 acre site at WCS will be used to dispose the waste. The waste will come from nuclear reactors, hospitals, universities and laboratories. Trucks will bring the waste all the way from Vermont, Maine and 34 other states who can buy into the compact.

Opposers of the site say it's harmful to the community. But Lindquist argues it's perfectly safe and says this waste was once used to save lives and can't just go just anywhere.

"The attitude of a lot of people that oppose is anywhere but here," said Lindquist. "But that's not the proper environmental way to deal with this waste. It's all waste part of our everyday lives. The waste that's been stranded in hospitals and in laboratories. This is the waste that results from procedures that save peoples lives."

Lindquist says he's most excited about what this will mean for the Andrews community. He says, it's going to create over 200 jobs.

"We doubled the jobs," said Lindquist. "These are high paying jobs, which has a rippling effect in the community."

Lindquist who has family in Monahans, wants to give back to the community that believed in his project.

"I can guarantee you there is not another community like Andrews," said Lindquist. "It's got that West Texas mentality of we can do whatever we put our minds to."

And come January when the waste is expected to begin flowing in and be sealed deep under ground at the facility. Lindquist hopes the county of Andrews will flourish on the surface above.

Jackie Smith can be reached via e-mail at [jsmith@kmid.tv](mailto:jsmith@kmid.tv).