

Nuclear Energy Industry Perspective on Updating and Reforming LLRW Regulations

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RIC 2011



Current LLRW Disposal Situation

- Licensees in 17 states have access to compact LLRW disposal sites
- Licensees in 33 states have access for disposal of Class A LLRW, but not for disposal of Class B/C LLRW and sealed sources
 - A new compact site in Texas may provide access for some or all of those licensees
- Disposal option(s) for GTCC LLRW not yet available



Nuclear Industry LLRW Management Principles

- Storage and disposal have been and will continue to be managed safely
- Timely disposal is preferable to storage
- Regulation should not unduly restrict safe LLRW management options
- States and LLRW compacts are key to enabling safe LLRW management options
- An open and competitive market best facilitates development of innovative and cost-effective options



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Nuclear Energy Industry LLRW Strategy

- Implement safe, secure and cost-effective interim storage
- Optimize LLRW generation and processing to facilitate safe, timely and cost-effective disposal
- Support reform of LLRW regulation
- Engage waste compacts, states and federal agencies in developing and implementing an integrated, national plan for effective and reliable low-level waste management



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Perspective – Regulatory Framework

- 10 CFR Part 61 is ancient, but still assures adequate protection of health & safety
- Guidance has generally worked, but is increasingly arcane and ambiguous
- Regulations and guidance lag farther and farther behind science, practice and innovation



Branch Technical Position

(Source: EPRI Technical Report 1016761 - Nov 2008)

- Increase reference volume
- Eliminate averaging constraints on homogenous materials
- Treat dewatered cartridge filters as equivalent to dry active waste (DAW)
- Recognize differences between activated metals and sealed sources
- Remove constraints on averaging irradiated hardware



Interim Rulemaking

- Avoid new terms and definitions (e.g., unique waste streams and large scale blending)
- Focus on the issue of analyzed versus unanalyzed performance
- Provide guidance on acceptable assumptions and methods for performance assessment



Update and Reform Part 61

- Identify stakeholder goals and concerns
- Develop a technical basis that reflects current science, practice and innovation
 - Assessment of ICRP Publication 103 Implications
 - Updated LLRW generation profile
 - Generic performance assessment
 - Engineering study of state-of-the art
- THEN define and propose options
- Coordinate with updating and reform of all agency radiation protection regulations


