

LLW *notes*

Volume 36 Number 1 January/February 2021

A Message from Dan Shrum, Executive Director

Our Spring 2021 Forum Meeting, April 7-8, will once again be virtual, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. I hope we are able to meet in person in Denver for the Fall meeting and things are looking promising. We have a great Spring meeting planned, with two panel discussions, one on non-Part 61 landfills and one on processing. The links will be available shortly – we will once again open this Forum meeting to anyone who would like to attend.

Take care and stay safe.

Daniel B. Shrum, Executive Director

Please submit comments, suggestions or articles for the LLW *notes* to margaret-llwf@gmail.com

In this Issue...Find news about LLWF Virtual Spring Meeting, NRC Leadership Change, NRC Fee Amendments, and DOE Report to Congress on Waste Classification, along with compact and regional news.

About LLW Forum

LLW Forum, established to facilitate state and compact implementation of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985, promotes the objectives of the low-level radioactive waste regional compacts. LLW Forum provides opportunity for state and compact officials to share information with each other and to exchange views with officials of federal agencies and other interested parties.

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Acronyms Used in LLW notes

CFR	◆ Code of Federal Regulations
CRCPD	◆ Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors
DOE	◆ US Department of Energy
DOT	◆ US Department of Transportation
EPA	◆ US Environmental Protection Agency
IAEA	◆ International Atomic Energy Agency
ICRP	◆ International Commission on Radiation Protection
LLWF	◆ Low-Level Waste Forum
NARM	◆ Naturally occurring and accelerator produced radioactive material
NCRP	◆ National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements
NORM	◆ Naturally occurring radioactive material
NRC	◆ US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
OAS	◆ Organization of Agreement States
TENORM	◆ Technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material

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Save the Date -

**Virtual Spring 2021
Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum Meeting**

The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum (LLRWF) will be hosting its Spring 2021 meeting virtually using the Webex Events platform. Originally planned for Baltimore, MD, the Forum Board voted to hold the Spring Meeting in a virtual format due to continued COVID concerns and travel restrictions. There will be three, two hour meetings starting April 7 and concluding April 8, 2021.

We will feature speakers from the NRC, DOE, Interstate Compacts, State Regulators, and Disposal Operators. A panel on Brokers and Processing and a panel on the use of RCRA facilities for waste disposal will also be featured. In addition, Forum members will be providing updates on the on-going Forum transformation. The meeting brings together a diverse group of stakeholders to promote sharing of ideas, concepts, and solutions.

A registration link is forthcoming. We hope you will be able to join us virtually, and look forward to when we can meet together in person.

Disused Sealed Radioactive Sources

Disused Sources Working Group Update - February 2021

by Michael Klebe

The Disused Sources Working Group (DSWG) had a virtual meeting on October 16, 2020. Since then, the industry specific version of the Disposition Options and Costs for Certain Radioactive Sealed Sources and Devices reports have been finalized and added to the Resources page of the DSWG website.

Work continues with the review of the NRC's 2015 revision to the Branch Technical Position on Concentration Averaging and Encapsulation. The purpose of this review is to determine the impact the 2015 BTP revision has had on the disposal of radioactive sealed sources. The current effort is to finalize responses to the comments received from the NNSA and prepare the review document for external technical review.

If you have questions or need more information, contact Michael Klebe, michael@michaelklebe.com.



DSWG

NRC Leadership Change

Christopher Hanson Named 18th NRC Chairman

Christopher T. Hanson has been designated by U.S. President Joe Biden as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's 18th Chairman, effective immediately. Hanson replaces Kristine L. Svinicki, who departed the agency on January 20, 2021, after serving as Chairman since 2017.

"I am honored to have been selected by President Biden to serve as the next NRC Chairman and to lead the talented women and men who oversee the licensing and regulation of our nation's civilian use of radioactive materials," said Hanson. "I remain committed to ensuring that we continue to work collaboratively under our authorities established by Congress to assure the public adequate protection of health and safety in carrying out our regulatory responsibilities."

"I look forward to building on Chairman Svinicki's many accomplishments as the Commission takes on new challenges and faces new opportunities as nuclear energy technologies continue to evolve and uses of nuclear materials expand in the future," said Hanson.

Hanson was sworn in as a Commissioner of the NRC on June 8, 2020. He has more than two decades of government and private-sector experience in the field of nuclear energy. Prior to joining the NRC, he served as a staff member on the Senate Appropriations Committee, where he oversaw civilian and national security nuclear programs.

Before working in the Senate, Hanson served as a senior advisor in the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy. He also served in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, where he oversaw nuclear and environmental clean-up programs, and managed the department's relationship with Congressional Appropriations committees.

Prior to joining DOE, he served as a consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton, where he led multiple engagements for government and industry in the energy sector.

Hanson earned master's degrees from Yale Divinity School and Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, where he focused on ethics and natural resource economics. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Ind.

Source: NRC News Release No: 21-004 January 23, 2021 Contact: Office of Public Affairs, 301-415-8200

Chairman Kristine Svinicki Departs NRC

Chairman Svinicki issued the following statement regarding her departure:

"I have greatly cherished the opportunity to serve the nation over the course of my long federal career, including the honor of having been nominated to serve as a Commissioner of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission by three successive Presidents of the United States – President Bush in 2007, President Obama in 2012, and President Trump in 2017. I am grateful to the many Senators and Congressmen who have worked with me on tough issues over the years and who, agreeing or disagreeing on the substance, acknowledged we were, for the most part, trying to achieve complementary aims. Thank you for your support of the agency's important work.

"... I was exceedingly fortunate to serve with such fine fellow Commissioners over the course of the years. I learned a lot from the colleagues that the system happened to send my way. The second thing is something that you would have to have worked here to understand; but the NRC culture, and the people who make it the welcoming and wonderful place it is, are truly unique in government.

"When I speak to college students and young professionals, I tell them that public service is a calling. If it calls to you, you should heed it and, if you do, you will not regret a single day. As I look back on 30 years of federal service, I know this to be as true as ever."

Source: NRC News Release No: 21-001 January 4, 2021

Contact: Office of Public Affairs, 301-415-8200

NRC Virtual Meeting

NRC Opens Online Registration for Virtual 2021 Regulatory Information Conference March 8 - 11, 2021

Online registration is now open for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's 33rd annual Regulatory Information Conference, to be held March 8-11 at <https://ric.nrc.gov/ricregistration>

The 2021 conference theme is "The Power of Possibility," which exemplifies the agency's current transformation journey to becoming a more modern, risk-informed regulator. The conference will also feature a simulcast session, jointly hosted with presenters from the Waste Management Symposia.

Details

The four-day event, NRC's first all virtual RIC, will make the conference program available to a wider audience through an innovative, interactive virtual platform.

The NRC offices of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Nuclear Regulatory Research will jointly host the annual RIC, which is free and open to the public. Registration is required to attend.

The full conference program and registration information are available on the RIC Website. Follow the NRC on Twitter and look for #NRCRIC2021Virtual.

This year's program consists of keynote remarks from NRC Chairman Christopher Hanson, and remarks by NRC Commissioners Jeff Baran, Annie Caputo, David Wright, and Executive Director for Operations Margaret Doane. Commissioners will also chair individual technical sessions throughout the four-day event.

The program will feature two special plenary sessions, including one in recognition of the 10th anniversary of Fukushima, during which panelists will reflect on the lessons learned from the accident and its legacy on nuclear power plant safety. The other session will highlight some of the agency's initiatives and activities energizing its workforce. Panelists will discuss the steps taken to attract, retain, and develop a skilled and inclusive workforce that can adapt to a rapidly changing work environment.

The conference's 28 technical sessions will cover a broad range of topics, including advanced reactors, accident tolerant fuel, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, microreactors, and risk-informed decision making.

Attendees will be able to browse 15 different digital exhibits, exhibitor information and virtual resources.

New to this year's conference are morning broadcasts that will preview the day's agenda and end-of-day special topic discussions with key presenters and staff interviews.

This conference is expected to have virtual participants representing more than 30 countries as well as stakeholders including nuclear power plant owners and operators, nuclear materials users, Congressional staffers and members of the public.

Source: NRC News Release No: 21-009
February 8, 2021

Contact: Ivonne Couret, 301-415-8200

Low-Level Radioactive Waste

NRC Proposes Amending Annual Fees

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend the licensing, inspection, special project, and annual fees charged to its applicants and licensees. These proposed amendments are necessary to implement the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (NEIMA), which, starting in fiscal year (FY) 2021, requires the NRC to recover, to the maximum extent practicable, approximately 100 percent of its annual budget less certain amounts excluded from this fee-recovery requirement. In addition, the NRC is also proposing improvements associated with fee invoicing to implement provisions in NEIMA.

Comments close: March 24, 2021

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/02/22/2021-03282/revision-of-fee-schedules-fee-recovery-for-fiscal-year-2021>

Contact: Anthony Rossi, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, telephone: 301-415-7341; email: Anthony.Rossi@nrc.gov.

FY 2021 Fee Collection—Low-Level Waste Surcharge

As in prior years, the NRC proposes to assess a generic low-level waste (LLW) surcharge of \$3.4 million. Disposal of LLW occurs at commercially operated LLW disposal facilities that are licensed by either the NRC or an Agreement State. Four existing LLW disposal facilities in the United States accept various types of LLW. All are located in Agreement States and, therefore, are regulated by an Agreement State, rather than the NRC. The NRC proposes to allocate this surcharge to its licensees based on data available in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Manifest Information Management System. This database contains information on total LLW volumes disposed of by four generator classes: Academic, industrial, medical, and utility. The ratio of waste volumes disposed of by these generator classes to total LLW volumes disposed over a period of time is used to estimate the portion of this surcharge that will be allocated to the power reactors, fuel facilities, and the materials users fee classes. The materials users fee class portion is adjusted to account for the large percentage of materials licensees that are licensed by the Agreement States rather than the NRC.

Table IV shows the allocation of the LLW surcharge and its proposed allocation across the various fee classes.

Table IV—Allocation of LLW Surcharge FY 2021
[Dollars in millions]

	LLW surcharge	
	Percent	\$
Operating Power Reactors	87.4	2.938
Spent Fuel Storage/Reactor Decommissioning	0.0	0.000
Non-Power Production or Utilization Facilities	0.0	0.000
Fuel Facilities	10.0	0.336
Materials Users	2.6	0.087
Transportation	0.0	0.000
Rare Earth Facilities	0.0	0.000
Uranium Recovery	0.0	0.000
Total	100.0	3.361

Document Citation:
86 FR 10459, Page: 10459-10490 (32 pages)

Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Disposal

**Three Mile Island Accident of 1979 Knowledge Management Digest
(NUREG/KM-0001, Supplement 2) Abstract - Publication Notice**

The objective of this report is to consolidate many of the experiences and lessons during the TMI-2 cleanup that had been recorded in numerous reports and papers. The experiences in this report focus on long-term plant stabilization, cleanup, and defueling. These experiences were based on an extensive review of a wide range of reports, presentations, and interviews with personnel formally from the key organizations involved in the cleanup.

Supplement 2 complements Supplement 1. The previous supplement provided summary descriptions of programs, activities, systems, and tools that were involved in the decade-long cleanup campaign of the damaged reactor core and severely contaminated equipment and buildings. In addition, the DVDs accompanying Supplement 1 contain most of the references cited in Supplement 2.

See the files at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/knowledge/km0001/s2/index.html>

Radioactive Waste Classification

DOE - Evaluation of Potential Opportunities to Classify Certain Defense Nuclear Waste from Reprocessing as Other than High-Level Radioactive Waste*Evaluation of Potential Opportunities to Classify Certain Defense Nuclear Waste from Reprocessing as Other than High-Level Radioactive Waste
Report to Congress
December 2020*

DOE published details of an evaluation directed by Congress regarding reclassification of high-level waste as explained in the Executive Summary.

DOE notes that:

In issuing the Report, DOE is not proposing or taking any specific actions – nor is DOE committing to propose or take any specific actions with respect to the inventory of reprocessing wastes that the Department manages. Rather, the Report identifies potential opportunities for DOE to reduce risk to public health and the environment while completing its cleanup mission more efficiently and effectively. DOE would conduct further data gathering, analysis, and engagement with stakeholders before taking action on any of these potential opportunities.

See the report:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55c4c892e4b0d1ec35bc5efb/t/5f-f33e70a6a0ae63d63c67d9/1609776754018/Evaluation+of+Potential+Opportunities+to+Classify+Certain+Defense+Nuclear+Waste+from+Reprocessing+as+Other+than+High-Level+Radioactive+Waste+-+December+2020.pdf>

Executive Summary

In Section 3139 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, Public Law 115-91, Congress directed the Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) to “conduct an evaluation of the feasibility, costs, and cost savings of classifying” certain waste resulting from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel that was generated from the United States’ nuclear defense program (reprocessing waste) “as other than high-level radioactive waste (HLW) without decreasing environmental, health, or public safety requirements.” See Section 3139(a).

In other words, Congress directed DOE to evaluate whether certain reprocessing waste that the Department is currently managing as HLW may be properly classified and safely disposed of as a lower level of radioactive waste. Section 3139 refers to any such reprocessing waste that may be properly classified as a lower level of radioactive waste as “covered defense nuclear waste.” See Section 3139 (e)(2). While HLW requires disposal in a deep geologic repository that does not currently exist, lower levels of radioactive waste can be safely disposed of in near-surface or intermediate-depth disposal facilities.

This Report specifically evaluates the inventory of reprocessing waste that is in storage or planned to be produced at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina, the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) in Idaho, and the Hanford Site (Hanford) in Washington. Based on this evaluation, and assuming full compliance with other legal obligations, the Report concludes that there are potential opportunities to determine that certain reprocessing wastes are covered defense nuclear waste within the meaning of Section 3139. Classifying these reprocessing wastes as non-HLW could enable DOE to begin disposition of such waste earlier, reduce costs, and lower the risk to workers, the public, and the environment.

Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Disposal

Report on Waste Burial Charges: Changes in Decommissioning Waste Disposal Costs at Low-Level Waste Burial Facilities, Final Report (NUREG-1307, Revision 18), Published January 2021

This 18th revision of NUREG-1307, "Changes in Decommissioning Waste Disposal Costs at Low-Level Waste Burial Facilities," contains burial cost escalation factors updated to the year 2020 for the reference PWR and for the reference BWR. As presented in Table 2-1, "Values of Bx as a Function of LLW Burial Site and Year," multiple burial cost escalation factors are provided that reflect various LLW burial scenarios for each reactor type. These were developed because licensees may have the option to ship waste to one or more of the four currently operating LLW disposal facilities in the United States, and the cost of disposal varies among each of the four facilities. In addition, there are various limitations on LLW disposal facility access by reactors, based upon the state in which the reactor is located. The different LLW burial scenarios are described in detail in Section 1.2, "LLW Disposal Cost Scenarios."

Revision 18 to NUREG-1307 assumes that LLW generated from day-to-day plant operations would be disposed of using the licensee's operating funds, and thus would not rely on decommissioning funds identified in the formula calculation. However, facilities located in states that are members of a LLW compact with no available LLW disposal site may be forced to provide interim storage for this waste (although most LLW could potentially be disposed of at the non-compact disposal facility located in Utah, or at the compact-affiliated disposal facility located in Texas). Accordingly, some of the LLW may ultimately need to be disposed of during decommissioning following interim storage. For those plants operating through extended license terms, this volume can become significant and the disposal cost would not be accounted for in a decommissioning trust fund based on the formula calculation.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this report are not necessarily those of the NRC. NUREG-1307, Revision 18, is not a substitute for NRC regulations. The approaches and methods described in this NUREG are provided for information only. Publication of this report does not necessarily constitute NRC approval or agreement with the information contained herein.

Source: Report abstract
<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1307/r18/index.html>

Decommissioning and Radioactive Waste Disposal

NRC Webinar on Consolidated Decommissioning Guidance, Characterization, Survey, and Determination of Radiological Criteria: Draft Report for Comment (NUREG-1757, Volume 2, Revision 2)

The NRC staff is holding a webinar on Monday, March 15, 2021, starting at 10:00 am EST, to discuss draft NUREG-1757, Volume 2, Revision 2 (draft report for public comment). The purpose of the meeting is to allow members of the public to provide comments on the draft guidance document, which can be found on the NRC website at the following location: <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1757/v2/index.html>.

The meeting notice can also be found on the NRC website. Please click the link and register for the WebEx meeting several days in advance of the meeting.

<https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg?do=details&Code=20210054>

This publication has been issued for public comment. Comments will be accepted until April 8, 2021. To submit comments, please see Docket ID Number NRC-2020-0192

Revised Uniform Waste Manifest (UWM) Forms

The NRC staff is holding a public meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 1:30 pm to collect stakeholder input on the status of the implementation of NUREG/BR-0204, Revision 3, and its revised Uniform Waste Manifest (UWM) Forms. The staff will provide of summary of the changes between versions of the UWM forms and the updated guidance, and will present examples of implementing the guidance for completing the UWM Forms. Members of the public will have opportunities to ask questions at specific points during the meeting and provide input to the staff on how much time is needed to implement the UWM form revisions.

The meeting notice can be found on the NRC website. Please click the link and register for the WebEx several days in advance of the meeting.

<https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg?do=details&Code=20210056>

Public Information and Education

One of the LLW Forum's objectives, adopted in 2020 concerns public information and education stated as:

--educating and informing policy makers and the public about the management and disposal of low-level radioactive waste and about the aims of the federal legislation--

Presented here is an NRC teaching module including topics of low-level radioactive waste disposal and compacts.

NRC Provides Teaching Module on Radioactive Waste

Through it's library, NRC provides a "Student Corner" on various topics. Lesson plans are available for "Educators." Also accompanying classroom activities are detailed.

Unit 4: Radioactive Waste gives objectives for the educator:

- To make students aware of nuclear waste shipments and the safeguards in place.
- To help students become more familiar with the Federal agencies involved in waste transportation.
- . To fully educate youngsters on nuclear waste transportation as a public policy issue.

At the conclusion of this unit the student should be able to:

- Describe the sources, handling, and disposal of radioactive wastes generated by nuclear power plants.
- Distinguish between different types of radioactive waste.
- Identify the agencies having oversight responsibilities in the designation and storage of radioactive waste.

The training module includes a section on "What is Low-Level Waste?" that includes mention of the low-level radioactive waste compacts.

To see the materials, visit:

<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/basic-ref/students/for-educators/unit4-radioactive-waste.html>

For a printable version, see

<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/basic-ref/students/for-educators/unit4.pdf>

Appalachian Compact

Delaware•Maryland•
Pennsylvania•West Virginia

Personnel News

Rich Janati has retired from the PA Department of Environmental Protection. However, he was back with through the end of 2020 as an annuitant, and this may be extended through the end of CY2021. Steve Acker holds Rich's previous position as Nuclear Safety Division Chief and the LLRW program is part of Steve's duties. Now Chairing the Compact is David J. Allard, MS, CHP | Director, PA Department of Environmental Protection, Email: djallard@pa.gov

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1 – Withdrawal of Interim Compensatory Measure B.1.A In Ea-02-026, “Order for Interim Safeguards and Security Compensatory Measures”

Exelon provided notification to the NRC that the TMI-1 reactor permanently ceased power operations on September 20, 2019, and certified that fuel was permanently removed from the reactor vessel and placed in the spent fuel pool as of that date. The NRC staff notes that since TMI-1 is permanently shut down and defueled, the primary security focus is the protection of the spent fuel. The specific security-initiated event addressed in ICM B.1.a of the Order EA-02-026 does not have any immediate effect on the storage or cooling of spent fuel.

In addition, the NRC staff recognizes that TMI-1 will maintain mitigation strategies for the protection of spent fuel pursuant to condition 2.C.(17) of its license. For the reasons discussed above, the NRC staff concludes that the licensee has demonstrated good cause to withdraw ICM B.1.a in Order EA-02-026. Therefore, the NRC withdraws ICM B.1.a in Order EA-02-026.

Source: NRC Letter February 16, 2021

NRC Inspection Report - Exelon Generation Co., LLC,, Three Mile Island Nuclear Station Unit 1

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed its quarterly inspection under Inspection Manual Chapter 2561, “Decommissioning Power Reactor Inspection Program,” at the permanently shutdown Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (TMI-1). The results of the inspection revealed that no findings of safety significance were identified.

Source: Letter February 1, 2021

Atlantic Compact

Connecticut•
New Jersey•South Carolina

Meeting

The next Atlantic Compact Commission meeting will be held via video conference on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 10 am. For more information please contact max@atlanticcompact.org

NRC Approves Power Uprate for Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2, and 3

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved a request by Duke Energy Carolinas LLC to increase by approximately 1.6 percent the reactor capacity of Oconee Nuclear Station Units 1, 2, and 3.

The power uprate for Oconee, located approximately 30 miles west of Greenville, S.C., will increase Unit 1's generating capacity from approximately 909 to 923 megawatts electric, Unit 2's generating capacity from approximately 919 to 933 MWe, and Unit 3's generating capacity from approximately 922 to 936 MWe. Duke Energy intends to implement each reactor's power uprate in a phased approach, based on refueling schedules.

The NRC's safety evaluation of the plant's proposed power uprate focused on several areas, including the nuclear steam supply systems, instrumentation and control systems, electrical systems, accident evalua-

tions, radiological consequences, fire protection, operations and training, testing, and technical specification changes.

Source: NRC News Release No: 21-007 February 3, 2021 Contact: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

Central Midwest Compact Illinois-Kentucky

Central Midwest Compact Commission Spring 2021 Meeting for FY 2021

March 30, 2021

3pm – 4pm (UTC)

<https://llwforum.webex.com/llwforum/j.php?M-TID=mc85f68707592599e998a670aa23f896e>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 187 731 8199

Meeting password: 4wqKXAJi7k6

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0001

Draft agenda includes:

Reports from the Chairman and KY Commissioner and Executive Assistant.

Other business including reminder of Annual Reporting due before Annual Meeting – Fall 2021.

Midwest Compact

Indiana-Iowa-Minnesota-Missouri-Ohio-Wisconsin

NRC Accepts Application for Subsequent License Renewal of Point Beach Nuclear Reactors

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has accepted for review an application from NextEra Energy to renew for 20 years the previously renewed operating licenses of Point Beach Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2.

The application, without proprietary details, is available on the NRC website. NextEra is seeking a

subsequent renewal for the Point Beach units, in Two Rivers, Wis., located approximately 13 miles northwest of Manitowoc. The NRC approved the initial license renewal in December 2005, with Unit 1 currently licensed to operate through Oct. 5, 2030, and Unit 2 through March 8, 2033.

Accepting the application for review, or “docketing” it, does not indicate whether the Commission will approve or reject the request. More information regarding subsequent license renewal is available on the NRC website.

Source: NRC News Release No: 21-003 January 22, 2021

Contact: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

NRC to Seek Comment on Environmental Review Topics for Point Beach Subsequent License Renewal

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is seeking the views of the public regarding environmental issues the agency should consider in reviewing NextEra Energy’s application for an additional 20 years of operation for Point Beach Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2.

The staff has scheduled a webinar Feb. 17, from 2-4 p.m., Eastern Time., to discuss the environmental review process and accept comments. Registration requests or requests to present oral comments should be submitted to NRC Project Manager Phyllis Clark by e-mail at phyllis.clark@nrc.gov by Feb. 10. NRC staff will consider written comments on environmental topics until March 3, following the publication of a notice in the Federal Register. Include Docket ID NRC-2020-0277 with your comment, via the [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) website or via mail to Office of Administration, Mail Stop TWFN 7 A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

Source: NRC News Release

No: 21-006 February 3, 2021

Contact: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

NRC Approves Changes to Duane Arnold Energy Center Emergency Planning Requirements

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted a request to revise the emergency preparedness plan for the Duane Arnold Energy Center in Iowa to reflect the plant's decommissioning status. NextEra Energy Duane Arnold LLC requested the change.

The changes come in the form of exemptions from NRC requirements no longer appropriate for a plant that has permanently ceased operations. These exemptions are consistent with NRC actions at other decommissioning plants. Once NextEra implements the exemptions, state and local governments may rely on comprehensive emergency management ("all hazard") planning for off-site emergency response should events occur at Duane Arnold. As a result, there will not be a 10-mile emergency planning zone as currently identified in the plant's license. The plant will maintain an onsite emergency plan and response capabilities, including the continued notification of state government officials in the event of an emergency declaration. Duane Arnold is a single-unit boiling water reactor located in Palo, Iowa, approximately eight miles northwest of Cedar Rapids.

Source: Nuclear Regulatory Commission - News Release

No: 21-010 February 17, 2021

Contact: David McIntyre, 301-415-8200

Northwest Compact

Alaska•Hawaii•Idaho•
Montana•Oregon•Utah•Washington•Wyoming

Meetings

A meeting of the State of Utah Waste Management and Radiation Control Board has been scheduled for February 11, 2021 at 1:30 p.m Mountain Standard Time.

This is an electronic/telephonic meeting. See links below for Agenda and electronic/telephonic participation information.

The Agenda and Board packet information for the Waste Management and Radiation Control Board

Meeting is available for your review at:

<https://deq.utah.gov/boards/waste-management-and-radiation-control-board-meetings>

The Agenda and Board packet information has also been posted on the Utah Public Notice website at:

<https://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>

State of Utah Waste Management and Radiation Control Board Meeting - January 14, 2021

The Agenda and Board packet information for the Waste Management and Radiation Control Board Meeting is available for your review at:

<https://deq.utah.gov/boards/waste-management-and-radiation-control-board-meetings>

The Agenda and Board packet information has also been posted on the Utah Public Notice website at:

<https://www.utah.gov/pmn/index.html>

Southeast Compact Alabama•Florida•Georgia•

NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to Hold Oral Argument on North Anna Subsequent License Renewal

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will conduct an oral argument via WebEx on Feb. 4, regarding a petition to hold an adjudicatory hearing. The hearing will concern Virginia Electric Power Company's application to renew the operating licenses of North Anna Units 1 and 2, near Mineral, Va., for an additional 20 years.

The oral argument will begin at 2 p.m., Eastern Time, and will address a rule waiver request from petitioners Beyond Nuclear, Sierra Club and Alliance for Progressive Virginia, as well as the admissibility of the groups' proposed contention. The three administrative judges on the Board will hear argument from representatives for the petitioners, Virginia Electric Power and the NRC staff.

The public will have listen-only access to the oral argument. The Board is composed of three administrative judges from the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licens-

ing Board Panel. Boards conduct adjudicatory hearings on major licensing actions by the NRC, and they are independent of the NRC staff. A Board's rulings may be appealed to the Commission, the five-member body that sets NRC policy.

Source: NRC News Release No: 21-005 January 28, 2021 Contact: Scott Burnell, 301-415-8200

Southwestern Compact

Arizona•California•South Dakota•North Dakota

Meeting

85th Southwestern Low Level Radioactive Waste Compact Meeting

Thursday, January 7, 2021 starting at 9:30 a.m. PDT as a WebEx virtual meeting

NRC Schedules Regulatory Teleconference with Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station

The NRC will hold a regulatory teleconference with officials from the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station on Feb. 11 to discuss an apparent violation of regulatory requirements documented by the NRC during an inspection at the plant in Tonopah, Ariz.

The teleconference will begin at 9 a.m., Central Time, and will be open to the public. The purpose of the teleconference is to discuss an apparent violation identified in a Dec. 15 inspection report related to Palo Verde's licensed operator qualification program.

No decision on the final safety significance of the apparent violation or any NRC actions will be made at the meeting.

Source: NRC News Release No: IV-21-002 January 26, 2021 Contact: Victor Dricks, 817-200-1128

Texas Compact

Texas•Vermont

Meeting

February 25, 2021

An electronic copy of the agenda is now available at <http://www.tllrwdcc.org> under "Upcoming Meetings",

and meeting materials are available at <http://www.tllrwdcc.org> under the headings for import applications, amendments, and export applications. A recording of the meeting will be available after the meeting at: <http://www.tllrwdcc.org/about-the-comission/public-meetings/>

The agenda includes consideration of and possible action on each of the following applications for importation of low-level radioactive waste; communications news; fiscal and budget updates; and Executive Director's report and update on any information/meetings including an update on the Texas Legislative Session. Also included are:

- Discussion and possible action regarding the contingency plan described in Section 3.04 of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact including report from the Committee; and
- Capacity Committee Report.

Next Meeting

April 15, 2021 - Details to be announced

Request for Public Comment

The Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission at its March 12, 2020, meeting voted to create a Contingency Committee to prepare a report to the full Commission to meet certain statutory mandates. Accordingly, the Contingency Committee requests and is accepting public comments in writing until 5 p.m., June 1, 2020, limited to the subject matters necessary for the Contingency Committee to prepare its report to the full Commission. As some of the subject matter may overlap with certain statutory requirements imposed on the host state some or all materials may be shared by the Contingency Committee with State of Texas officials, who may use the materials for similar contingency planning. Written comments and supporting materials, if any, should be submitted in writing to: comments@tllrwdcc.org. Please note in the subject line "Contingency Plan Comments."

<http://www.tllrwdcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/TLLRWDC-Contingency-Committee-Request-for-Public-Comment.pdf>

Nuclear Security

Gauges

Florida

On February 12, 2021, Wingerter Laboratories called the Florida Bureau of Radiation Control (BRC) to inform them of a stolen soil moisture density gauge (Cs-137 and Am:Be-241). A driver picked up the gauge, stopped for coffee at the Florida City Quick Stop and while inside, the gauge was stolen from the pickup truck with the use of a grinder to cut the cables and locks.

California

On 02/01/21, a moisture density gauge was stolen out of one of their inspector's truck parked at his residence in Pacifica, California (11 mCi of Cs-137 and 44 mCi of Am-241). Windows of the cab were smashed to get inside by unlocking or opening the doors. The Type A case was taken (gauge inside) by cutting the chains securing the gauge in the cab of the truck.

On 1/19/21, the California Office of Emergency Services reported an incident involving five stolen moisture / density gauges. The licensee became aware of this theft on 1/19/21, when one of their staff members attempted to collect a gauge from the authorized storage unit located at 3033 Lafayette Street, Unit A133, in Santa Clara, CA. The licensee had five gauges stored at this location.

The theft occurred late at night on Friday, 1/15/2021, when eight units were burglarized that day. Dispatchers were able to recover five transport cases near De La Cruz and Hwy 101 in Santa Clara, but the gauges were all missing.

Source for Incidents: Event Reports at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/index.html>

The gauges that were stolen contain:

- 50mCi of AmBe 241 and 10mCi of Cs 137
- 50mCi of AmBe 241 and 10mCi of Cs 137
- 50mCi of AmBe 241 and 10mCi of Cs 137
- 44mCi of AmBe 241 and 11mCi of Cs 137
- 44mCi of AmBe 241 and 11mCi of Cs 137

Arkansas

Mid-Continent Laboratories, Inc., reported that a Troxler gauge [(Am-241 (44 mCi); Cs-137(9 mCi))] had been stolen from a licensee while at his residence. The authorized user checked the portable gauge out of its permanent storage location to travel to Colorado for work, returned to his place of residence and while at his residence the chains securing the gauge to the truck were cut and the portable gauge was stolen from the vehicle.

Ohio

While conducting the annual General License inventory, the licensee discovered a missing gauge. Attempts to locate the gauge were not successful. It is believed that gauge was inadvertently sent to a metal scrap yard. The gauge contains a 100 mCi Am-241 sealed source.

Nuclear Security

Miscellaneous Radioactive Materials Lost in Transit or Improperly Disposed

Oklahoma

Elekta recently performed a source exchange on a High Dose-Rate Remote Afterloader. After installing the new source, Elekta packaged the old source (containing 2 Ci of Ir-192) and prepared it for shipping to Alpha-Omega Services in Vinton, LA for disposal. The package was picked up by the common carrier on January 5, 2021 and scanned into their tracking system. On February 1, 2021, Elekta notified the licensee that the common carrier had informed them the package had not been scanned into any other common carrier facility after being picked up. The common carrier considers the package lost.

Massachusetts

The licensee reported that they had discovered on the same day at 0937 EST that a package (White 1, Type A, UN 2915) containing 583 milliCuries of C-14 in the form of solid barium cyanamide with the consistency of table salt is missing. That package was further described as being one piece with a gross weight of 4 kilograms. The White 1 package is expected to have a dose rate of less than 0.5 mrem/hour at the package surface. The package was imported from Berlin, Germany from a company named IUT and was reported to have last been observed to be at John F Kennedy International Airport (JFK), Jamaica, New York.

Louisiana

On January 05, 2021, [the Radiation Safety Officer] (RSO) dropped off seventeen sources to the common carrier for shipment to various locations. Alpha-Omega contacted the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality / Emergency Response Services Division / Radiation

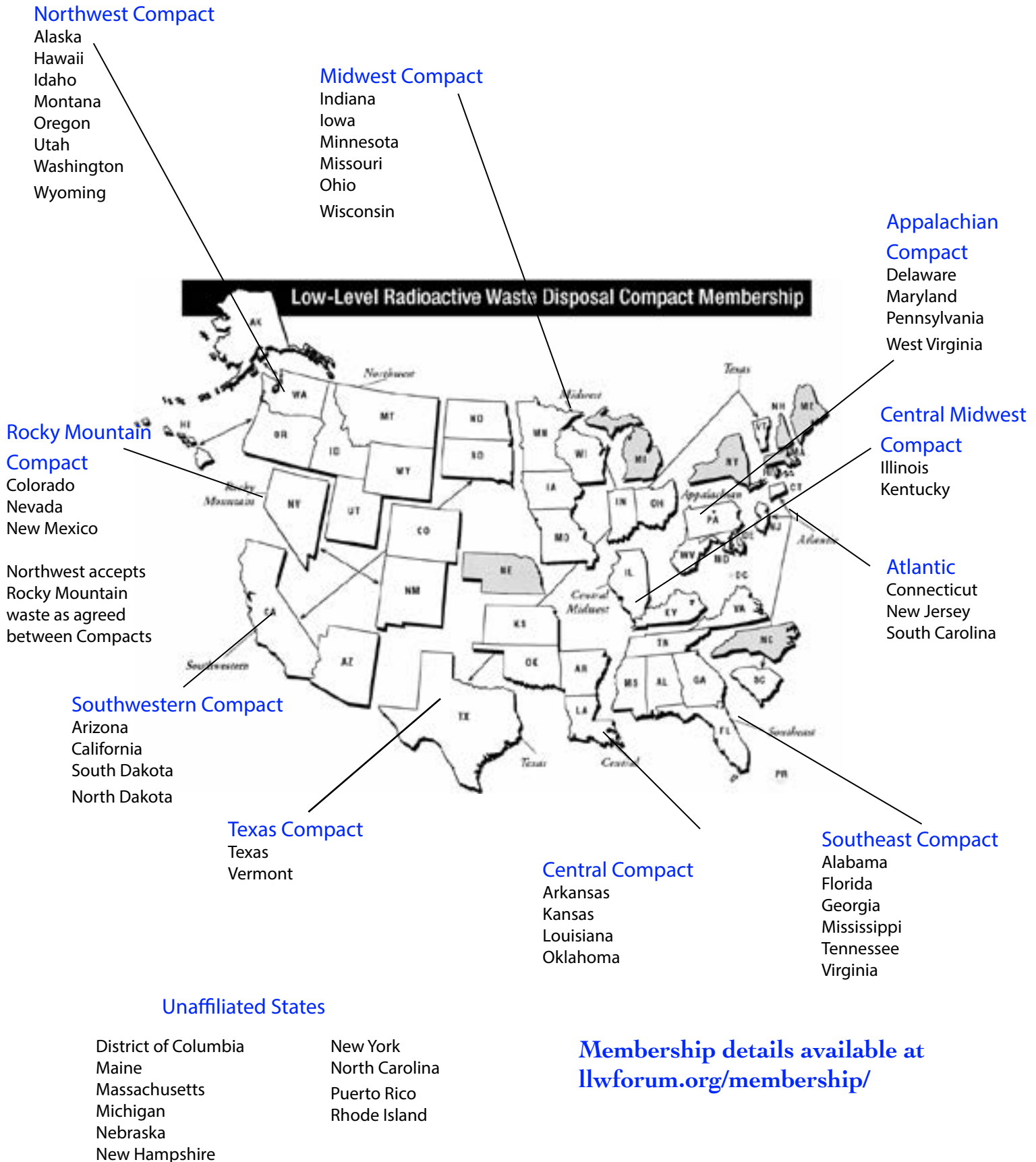
Section to report that a High Dose Rate (HDR) Ir-192 source was lost in transit with the common carrier. The source was being shipped to Mid-Columbia Medical Center. The activity of the Ir-192 source on 1/5/21 was 10.568 Ci (391.016 GBq) when it was shipped. The current activity on 1/15/21 is 9.626 Ci (356.162 GBq). The common carrier does not show this source being tracked or received.

Virginia

On January 5, 2021, the Virginia licensee reported that 34.02 microCuries of I-125 Aqueous Solution (Musk Tracer) was lost. The source was left in the package on the floor with the other items in the inventory area. Upon review of the receipt log of radioactive materials, it was noted that this shipment (package) was never logged-in, whereas other products received that day were included in the log, and the source could not be located. On 12/11/2020, the RSO [Radiation Safety Officer] was notified about the possible loss of the package. A search was conducted in the facility, but the licensee was unable to locate the source. The Facilities Department was alerted that there was a missing shipment (source), but five days had already passed. The licensee stated that it was too late to go through the dumpsters. The licensee believed that the package was unknowingly disposed of in a dumpster.

Georgia

Pilgrim's owned and operated three gas chromatographs (GC) pursuant to a general license. The three GC units were inadvertently disposed of in the Richland Creek Landfill. Pilgrim's is in the process of coordinating with the landfill to develop a plan for addressing this inadvertent disposal.



Information Resources

- DOE Public Affairs/Press Office - 202/586-5806
- DOE Distribution Center - 202/586-9642
- EPA (for program information, publications, laws and regulations) www.epa.gov
- EPA Information Resources Center - 202/260-5922
- EPA Listserve Network Contact Lockheed Martin EPA Technical Support at (800) 334-2405 or email (leave subject blank and type help in body of message) listserv@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov
- Government Accounting Office (GAO) Document Room - 202/512-6000
- Government Printing Office (to order entire Federal Register notices) - 202/ 512-1800
- Legislative Resource Center (to order U.S. House of Representatives documents)- 202/226-5200
- NRC Public Document Room - 202/ 634-3273
- NRC Reference Library (NRC regulations, technical reports, information digests, and regulatory guides) www.nrc.gov
- U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) (for the Congressional Record, Federal Register,- congressional bills and other documents, and access to more than 70 governmentdatabases) <http://www.access.gpo.gov>
- U.S. Senate Document Room - 202/224-7860
- Variety of documents through numerous links at LLW Forum, Inc. at www.llwforum.org

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