

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 | U.S. Department of Energy |
| DOT | U.S. Department of Transportation |
| EPA | U.S. 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 | U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission |
| OAS | Organization of Agreement States |
| TENORM | Technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material |

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Officers

- Tom Hansen, Chair**
- Doug Hansen, Chair-Elect**
- Joe Klinger, Past-Chair**
- Alyse Peterson, Treasurer**



Forum Corner

Board Meeting Focus: Looking Back at 2023 and Looking Forward to 2024

The Forum Board promotes the objectives of the low-level radioactive waste regional compacts. During 2023, the Forum provided opportunities for state and compact officials to share information with each other and to exchange views with officials of federal agencies and other interested parties through its Disused Sources Working Group, activities of the Executive Director and its Spring and Fall meetings, which included tours and site visits of facilities relevant to low-level radioactive waste. The Forum will continue its efforts and looks forward to learning from the membership ways in which the Forum can better serve the needs of the group. Please contact Dan Shrum with any suggestions at dshrum@llwforum.org.

A few highlights from 2023 --

The Disused Sources Working Group engaged in meetings with Forum members on key issues regarding the safe disposal of sealed sources, developed a pilot study opportunity regarding IAEA Category 3 sources and the National Source Tracking System, issued three new educational reports in 2023 and engaged with the GAO through discussions, presentations at the Forum annual meetings and in making comments on recommendations.

Emerging Technologies have been the subject of Forum meetings with presentations from leaders in advanced reactors, the status of fusion technology, production of medical radioisotopes and other issues.

Integrated Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Rulemaking remains a significant issue for the Forum and the Forum has provided summaries of meetings to the membership, included leadership of regulatory agencies in the annual meeting presentations and continues to follow and make comments on this topic.

Consolidated Interim Fuel Storage and Decommission are other topics the Forum is monitoring closely.

The Executive Director has been active on behalf of the Forum at other conferences and meetings such as the Waste Management Conference, Agreement States Meeting, NRC Regulatory Information Conference, and others. Sound fiscal management has been a goal of the Forum Board and the Forum has been operating within its means and accumulating reserves.

2024: The Forum anticipates pursuing all these topics and more that may arise in 2024! As these issue progress, the Forum will be considering the impacts on the compacts and the waste disposal future and providing comments on key issues and opportunities.

Forum Corner



LLW FORUM MEETING SPRING 2024 MEETING

*We invite you to join us for
our Spring Meeting.*

The Spring 2024 meeting will be held April 3-4 in
Orlando, Florida, at:

Drury Plaza Hotel Orlando – Disney Springs® Area
2000 Hotel Plaza Boulevard Orlando, FL 32830

The DSWG meeting will be held April 5, 2024.

SIGN UP NOW!

THE AGENDA WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON!

CLICK [HERE](#) TO REGISTER NOW!

CLICK [HERE](#) TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM!

If you have any questions or concerns,
please contact Cecilia Snyder at csnyder@llwforum.org.

High-Risk Radioactive Material: Opportunities Exist to Improve the Security of Sources No Longer in Use

GAO-24-105998, November 30, 2023

Disused Sources Working Group

GAO Releases New Report on Sealed Sources

by Michael Klebe

Introduction

In November 2023, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a new report “High-Risk Radioactive Material: Opportunities Exist to Improve the Security of Sources No Longer in Use” (GAO-24-105998). The report was written in response to a provision in House Report 117-118 which accompanied the National Defense Authorization Act for FY-2022. The House Report directed the GAO to “review and provide recommendations, including proposals for Congressional action if necessary, to incentivize private industry to dispose of radioactive sources including consideration of whether to establish a fee to create a Federally administered fund to ensure private industry has reserved sufficient funds to cover the costs of such disposal.”

In response, the GAO conducted a study that examined:

- (1) “the factors that contribute to licensees delaying the disposal of disused high-risk radioactive sources
- (2) leading practices that, if implemented, could help address challenges related to the disposal of some disused radioactive sources.”

Methods

The GAO conducted interviews and site visits with federal and state agencies involved in managing and regulating sealed sources, licensees who manufacture or use sealed sources, industry groups and a sealed source broker. A document search was conducted to identify best practices for the management of sealed sources. GAO staff have also attended and participated in the last several meetings of the LLW Forum and Disused Sources Working Group (DSWG).

Radioisotopes Considered High-Risk

The GAO notes that “In the U.S., the radioactive isotopes most commonly used for medical, industrial, and research purposes are americium-241, cesium-137, cobalt-60, and iridium-192.” These four isotopes are considered high-risk and have different disposal options based on the activity and concentration. Cobalt-60 and iridium-192 can be disposed of at the existing commercial disposal facilities. The Class C limit for americium-241 is 100 nCi/g and the limit for cesium-137 is 4600 Ci/m³.

The GAO states, “Thus the quantity of material in many of the larger sealed sources used in the medical and oil and gas industries would likely render them GTCC waste.”

GAO Releases New Report on Sealed Sources - continued

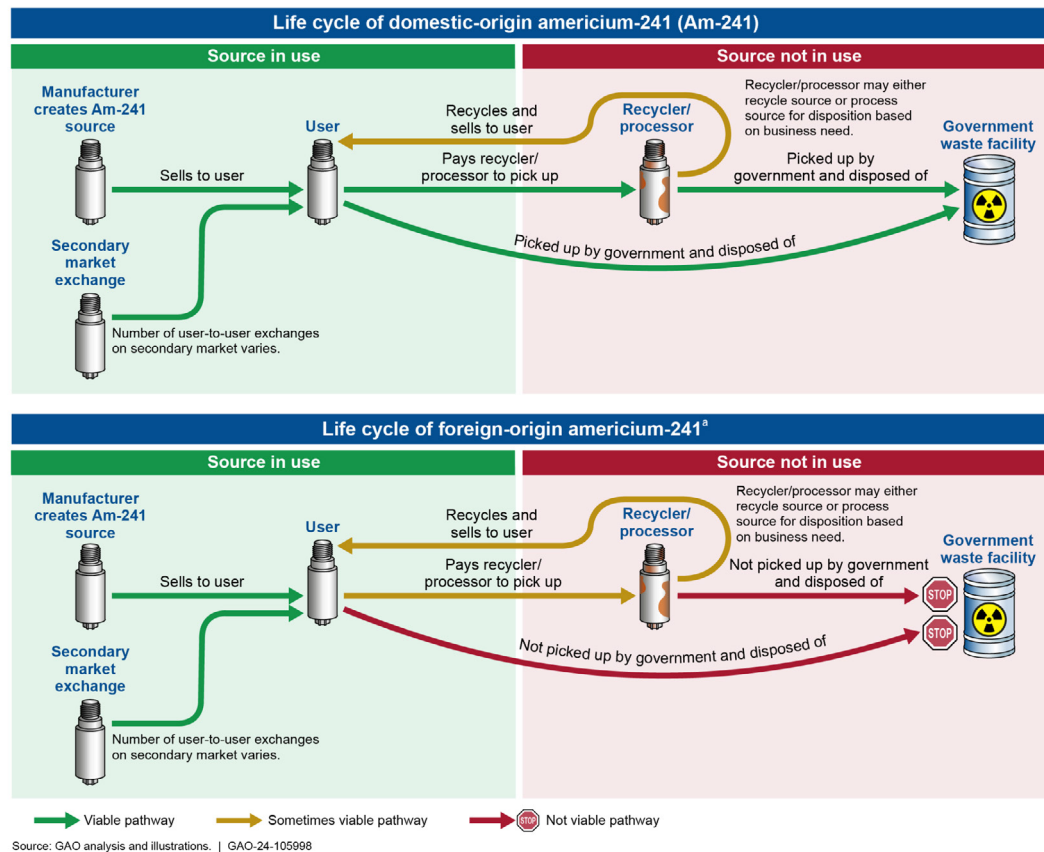
Foreign Source Americium - A Specific Problem

The report discusses the specific problem with americium sources that contain foreign origin americium. Domestic production of americium ended in 2003. Since that time, all americium has been imported, either as raw material or finished sources, from countries such as Russia or France. Americium sources meeting the Class A or C waste category limits can be disposed of at the existing commercial disposal facilities. That limit allows sources up to 25 mCi at the WCS facility. Unfortunately, there are tens of thousands of americium sources that are greater than class C waste (GTCC). A significant percentage of these are generally licensed, so the exact number is unknown. The NNSA can recover domestic origin americium sources “for national security or public health and safety concerns and may be disposed as DOE waste.” GTCC foreign origin americium sources have no disposal options available.

GTCC - Disposal at WIPP

The GAO discussed the disposal of GTCC sources at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) facility. WIPP was developed for the disposal of transuranic defense waste. The vast majority of these GTCC sources have no connection with defense production activities and are not eligible for disposal at WIPP as “DOE has determined that foreign-origin sources cannot be categorized as defense waste and cannot be disposed of at WIPP.”

Figure 3: Life Cycles of Well Logging Devices Containing Americium-241 Sources, by Their Country of Origin



See the entire report at <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-105998>

For more information, contact Allison Bawden at (202) 512-3841 or bawdena@gao.gov.

GAO Releases New Report on Sealed Sources - continued

Major Significance

The use of IAEA Category 1, 2, and 3 sources “could produce billions of dollars of socioeconomic damage if released through a dirty bomb, though the NRC’s enhanced security requirements only cover category 1 and 2 sources.” GAO also notes “Furthermore, our work has demonstrated that the risks of a dirty bomb are increasing.” The GAO identifies three components of risk of a dirt bomb: threat, vulnerability, and consequence.

Three Factors Affecting Timely Disposal

The GAO identifies three factors that contribute to sealed sources not being disposed in a timely manner shown below. The GAO goes into detail in explaining the issues for these three factors. They also include a nice graphic showing the life cycle of well logging devices that contain domestic and foreign origin americium, shown on page 6 of this article.

- 1.** The NRC does not require licensees to dispose of radioactive sources unless a licensee is terminating all activities under its license at specific locations.
- 2.** Licensees do not have an option to dispose of GTCC from foreign-origin americium-241 sources.
- 3.** Licensees may delay disposal of GTCC from cesium-137 sources and may rely on government assistance because of the high cost of disposal and the absence of a GTCC disposal facility in the U.S.

Leading Practices: Four Themes

The GAO reviewed policies and guidance from key organizations to identify leading practices that could aid in addressing these disposal challenges that are not reflected in current NRC requirements. They identified six leading practices which aligned into four themes shown below. They present a discussion of each of these themes and a table with the six leading practices and the associated adoption by the key organizations.

- 1. Tracking**
category 3 sources may help the NRC and agreement states ensure licensees maintain responsibility for the security and disposal of these sources.
- 2. Financial**
assurances may ensure that licensees plan for disposal of certain sources at the time of purchase.
- 3. Possession time**
limits and fees for disused sources may encourage licensees to promptly dispose of these sources.
- 4. Orphan**
source funds provide resources to properly dispose of lost or abandoned sources.

GAO Releases New Report on Sealed Sources - continued

Conclusion

The GAO closes the report with a brief conclusion and three recommendations for the DOE and NRC. The conclusion reads:

“Radioactive sources provide a key benefit to many industrial and medical applications. However, if not properly used or secured, these sources pose a threat to public safety. For example, they could be stolen and used in a dirty bomb, which could result in billions of dollars in socioeconomic damage. Additionally, sources are used in industries like well logging that are subject to boom-and-bust cycles, which raises the potential for them to become orphaned if a company shuts down. The longer that sources are in a disused state, the higher the risk of loss and abandonment they have. Both the NRC and DOE agree that this risk can endure for a long period for those

sources for which there is no disposal pathway and that have long half-lives, such as americium-241. Until a permanent disposal pathway can be agreed upon, the NRC and DOE may reduce these risks by taking action to find secure, long-term storage for disused americium-241 sources.

“Further, key entities, including agreement states, have identified or implemented leading practices that may reduce the time that sources remain disused, thereby reducing these risks. The NRC has begun to consider one of these practices—financial assurances—but has yet to take action to implement our prior recommendation to track category 3 sources. Moreover, the NRC has not assessed other leading practices, including possession time limits or fees for disused sources and orphan source funds. Doing so could provide better assurance of the safety and security of these sources and potentially avoid significant socioeconomic consequences.”

GAO Recommendations for DOE and NRC

Recommendation 1

The Secretary of Energy, in coordination with the NRC and in consultation with other relevant stakeholders, should conduct an analysis to evaluate options and take action to facilitate long-term storage, within agency authorities, to better secure foreign-origin americium-241 until a permanent disposal or viable recycling option is available.

Recommendation 2

The Chairman of the NRC, in coordination with DOE and in consultation with other relevant stakeholders, should conduct an analysis to evaluate options and take action to facilitate long-term storage, within agency authorities, to better secure foreign-origin americium-241 until a permanent disposal or viable recycling option is available.

Recommendation 3

The Chairman of the NRC should comprehensively assess leading practices that, if implemented, would minimize the time that disused sources are in a licensee’s possession. These practices include financial assurances for all category 1, 2, and 3 sources; tracking of category 3 sources; possession time limits or fees for disused sources; and orphan source funds.

GAO Releases New Report on Sealed Sources - continued

GAO Describes the Response They Received from DOE and NRC

“In its written comments, DOE and NNSA agreed with our first recommendation. Specifically, DOE and NNSA agreed to conduct an analysis of options to better secure foreign-origin americium-241 until a permanent disposal or viable recycling option is available, and have initially set April 30, 2024 as the target date for completing their analysis.

“In its written comments, NRC generally agreed with our second recommendation and neither agreed nor disagreed with our third recommendation. Specifically, NRC asked for clarification on the second recommendation regarding long-term storage of foreign-origin americium-241. We have clarified our language to better reflect the intent of the recommendation. With regard to the third recommendation, NRC said that it would need to conduct a regulatory analysis prior to implementing the leading practices identified in this report. As we have previously reported, socioeconomic costs totaling billions of dollars in damages could be avoided if a dirty bomb is prevented. In addition, the benefit of these leading practices has already been recognized by some agreement states that have proactively implemented them.”

Representatives from the GAO have been active and productive participants in the last three DSWG meetings and the DSWG looks forward to their continued participation. They have provided valuable insight into their interactions with DOE, NRC, and agreement state programs. This report is the most recent of their reports on the management and hazards of disused sources. This and previous reports are available on the Resources page of the DSWG website: www.disusedsources.org/resources.

Other GAO News

GAO Names New Chief Scientist

WASHINGTON (December 4, 2023) – The Government Accountability Office (GAO) announced Sterling Thomas, PhD as the agency’s new Chief Scientist. Sterling joins GAO as an accomplished research scientist and business executive, having held positions that have given him extensive knowledge across academia, government, and the private sector. Text of his introduction are at <https://www.gao.gov/assets/870/863805.txt>

Low-Dose Radiation: Agency Leadership and Collaboration Are Needed to Set the Direction of Future Research - GAO-24-106317

Published: Dec 07, 2023. GAO is making two recommendations for DOE to lead a collaborative effort for an interagency low-dose radiation research program and to work with Congress if the office finds that it should share or hand over leadership to another agency. DOE concurred with both recommendations.

Source Security

NRC Proposes \$17,500 Fine to Puerto Rico Firm for Apparent Violation Involving Nuclear Gauge

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed a \$17,500 civil penalty against a Toa Alta, Puerto Rico, firm for failing to dispose of or transfer a portable nuclear gauge and complete decommissioning of its site within the required time period.

“The NRC’s primary interest is in ensuring such gauges are licensed, used and stored properly, and that they do not fall into the wrong hands, possibly harming those not familiar with the radioactive contents,” NRC Region I Administrator Raymond Lorson said.

Source: NRC News Release No: I-23-014
November 9, 2023

Contact: Diane Screnci, 610-337-5330
Neil Sheehan, 610-337-5331

NRC Proposes \$28,000 Civil Penalty to XCEL NDT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed a \$28,000 civil penalty to XCEL NDT of Gretna, Nebraska, for three violations of NRC security requirements associated with the use of radioactive materials. The company uses radioactive materials for industrial radiography to perform non-destructive testing of materials.

The NRC identified the apparent violations of agency requirements following an inspection after a company vehicle containing radioactive materials was stolen from a temporary job site in Billings, Montana, last year.

Source: NRC News Release No: IV-23-013
December 20, 2023

Contact: Victor Dricks, 817-200-1128

NRC Statement

NRC Statement on the Death of Former Commissioner Forrest J. Remick

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued the following statement on behalf of the NRC Commission and staff, regarding the passing of former NRC Commissioner Forrest J. Remick.

“Dr. Remick has the distinction of being the only person ever to serve the agency as an NRC office director, an administrative judge with our Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, a chairman of NRC’s Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, and then as an NRC Commissioner,” said NRC

Chair Christopher T. Hanson. “He also had a distinguished career in the nuclear engineering department at Pennsylvania State University. We are deeply saddened by his death.”

Source: NRC News Release No: 23-070
November 1, 2023

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

Climate and Nuclear Power

IAEA: Repurposing Coal Power Plant Sites with Low Carbon Nuclear

“Preserving Communities Through a Coal to Nuclear Just Transition” event held in the Atoms4Climate Pavilion at COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 6 December 2023.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/repurposing-coal-power-plant-sites-with-low-carbon-nuclear>

Net Zero “Needs Nuclear Power,” IAEA Says in Landmark Statement Backed by Dozens of Countries at COP28

The statement reads, in part: “The responsible advancement of innovative technologies, including small modular reactors, aims to make nuclear power easier to build, more flexible to deploy and more affordable, which is of particular importance to developing countries.”

See the full statement at <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/statements/iaea-statement-on-nuclear-power-at-cop28>

IAEA at COP28: The Role of Nuclear Technology in Climate Change Monitoring, Mitigation and Adaptation

The article reads, in part: “Speaking at an IAEA Board of Governors meeting ahead of COP28, Mr Grossi said: ‘For the first time in the history of COP, nuclear countries will be able to say yes, we are here, yes, nuclear energy is part of the solution for this global climate crisis that we have.’”

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-at-cop28-the-role-of-nuclear-technology-in-climate-change-monitoring-mitigation-and-adaptation>

What is net zero? What is the role of nuclear power and innovations?

“...the prospects for nuclear power depend not only on innovations in reactor technologies but also in manufacturing processes, the security of fuel supply, spent fuel solutions and other factors.”

See the full article at <https://www.iaea.org/bulletin/what-is-net-zero-what-is-the-role-of-nuclear-power-and-innovations>

Advanced Reactors

NRC Issues Final Rule: Emergency Preparedness for Small Modular Reactors and Other New Technologies

Final Rule Effective Date: December 18, 2023.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is amending its regulations to include new alternative emergency preparedness requirements for small modular reactors and other new technologies. This final rule acknowledges technological advancements and other differences from large light-water reactors that are inherent in small modular reactors and other new technologies. The NRC is concurrently issuing Regulatory Guide 1.242, "Performance-Based Emergency Preparedness for Small Modular Reactors, Non-Light-Water Reactors, and Non-Power Production or Utilization Facilities."

<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2023-25163/p-3>

Mixed Radioactive Waste Land Disposal

Department of Energy Hanford Mixed Radioactive Waste Land Disposal Restrictions Variance**A Proposed Rule by the Environmental Protection Agency on 11/28/2023**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to grant a treatability variance from the Land Disposal Restrictions (LDR) treatment standards for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for approximately 2,000 gallons of mixed low-activity waste from the Hanford Site in Washington State. The petitioner demonstrated that treatment of the waste to the specified standard is technically inappropriate, and the treatment variance is sufficient to minimize

threats to human health and the environment posed by land disposal of the waste. If the variance is granted, the waste will be stabilized subject to specified conditions, and disposed at EnergySolutions in Clive, Utah and/or Waste Control Specialists in Andrews County, Texas. The variance would allow DOE, Washington, and EPA to evaluate the regulatory pathways by which separation, pretreatment, stabilization, and offsite disposal could be implemented for other Hanford mixed low-activity waste.

Comments must be received on or before December 28, 2023.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2023-26123/p-3>

Spent Fuel, Decommissioning and Waste Transportation and Storage

Strategic Programmatic Overview of the Decommissioning and Low-Level Waste and Nuclear Materials Users Business Lines (Public Meeting)

Thursday, January 18, 2024

9:00 a.m.

(Contact: Candace Spore: 301-415-8537)

Additional Information: The meeting will be held in the Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland. The

public is invited to attend the Commission meeting in person or watch live via webcast at the Web address – <https://video.nrc.gov/>.

Discussion of the Administration's Short- and Long-term Domestic Uranium Fuel Strategy (Public Meeting)

Held Tuesday, December 12, 2023

10:00 a.m. (Contact: Haile Lindsay: 301-415-0616)

NRC Proposes \$43,750 Civil Penalty for Shipment of Equipment from Oyster Creek that Exceeded Radiation Limits

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed a \$43,750 fine for Holtec Decommissioning International for shipping radioactive materials in a package exceeding regulatory transportation limits. The package, which contained decommissioning equipment, was shipped in an open transport vehicle from the Oyster Creek site in Lacey Township, New Jersey, to the Indian Point site in Buchanan, New York, where the radiation levels were detected on the outside surface. Holtec owns and is decommissioning both nuclear power plants.

There was no impact to the public as a consequence of this incident. The elevated radioactivity levels were confined to the top of the package and were not accessible to the public while in transit.

Holtec acknowledged the violation in a written response and provided corrective actions it has taken or will put in place to prevent a recurrence.

Source: NRC News Release No: I-23-015 November 9, 2023

Contact: Diane Screnci, 610-337-5330

Neil Sheehan, 610-337-5331

WIPP Achieves EM's 2023 Transuranic Waste Disposal Priority

CARLSBAD, N.M. — EM's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) has accomplished an EM 2023 priority to complete and dispose of 400 transuranic waste shipments while striving to ensure no backlog of shipments from cleanup at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) site in New Mexico.

"Exceeding 400 transuranic waste shipments to WIPP this year is a positive indication of the cleanup work we're enabling throughout the nation," said Mark Bollinger, EM's Carlsbad Field Office manager. "WIPP's mission to safely receive and dispose of waste shipments is instrumental to cleanup efforts at Los Alamos and other waste-generating sites, and we safely exceeded our goal at WIPP in 2023."

In October, WIPP received its 400th shipment of the year... Generator sites are located throughout the U.S., including LANL, Idaho National Laboratory and the Savannah River Site in South Carolina.

-Contributor: Maelene Soto, EM Update

LLW Disposal Integrated Rulemaking

Update on the NRC's Plans for a Public Meeting on Its Integrated Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Rulemaking

The second virtual public meeting on this rulemaking will be on January 23, 2024 from 2-4 p.m. Eastern.

On May 17, 2023, the NRC staff held a public meeting on its Integrated Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal rulemaking that will integrate disposal criteria for the near-surface disposal of Greater-than-Class C waste and the ongoing Part 61 rulemaking. In that meeting, staff described the rulemaking background and preliminary direction on the key technical topics and answered questions from participants.

Recently NRC staff have received questions from members of the public regarding this rulemaking as well as a request for an additional public meeting.

As a result, the NRC staff is planning to hold a second virtual public meeting on this rulemaking on January 23, 2024 from 2-4 p.m. Eastern.

The meeting has been announced on the NRC's Public Meeting Notification System site. Staff plan to provide a brief overview of the rulemaking history and the proposed changes at the outset of the meeting. The meeting will then include time reserved for members of the public to make presentations and to ask questions. Based on the feedback received, the NRC staff will consider

whether any changes are needed to the preliminary proposed rule currently under development.

Presentations

In our prior ListServ message on this public meeting we requested a response from those who would like to make a presentation at this meeting, and are extending the request date to December 22, 2023.

If you would like to make a presentation, please send an e-mail to George.Tartal@nrc.gov by that date and briefly describe the subject of your presentation.

Participants are not required to make a presentation. All participants will be given an opportunity to speak at the meeting.

Best regards,

Monique L. Ford

Lead Administrative Assistant for Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery, and Waste Programs (DUWP)

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS)

Review of Proposed 10 CFR Part 61: "Integrated Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal"

Held: December 5, 2023

1:00 pm EDT

Room T2-B, Two White Flint Plaza
11545 Rockville Pike

The Subcommittee is meeting in a hybrid format with both in-person and remote capability. Members of the public may observe the meeting by using the MSTeams link or listen to the meeting.

For more information, please contact:

Derek Widmayer

(301) 415-5375

derek.widmayer@nrc.gov

NRC's 36th Annual Regulatory Information Conference March 12-14, 2024

Agenda
Coming soon -
January 2024

When -
March 12-14, 2024

Where -
Bethesda North Marriott
Hotel and Conference
Center, 5701 Marinelli Road,
Rockville, MD 20852. Online
viewing will be available
for people who wish to
participate virtually.

Reservations -
Marriott's RIC hotel
reservation web page or call
Marriott reservations directly
at 1-800-859-8003 and
provide the group name NRC
RIC 2024.

Cutoff Date -
February 19, 2024

RIC Website -
[https://www.nrc.gov/public-
involve/conference-symposia/
ric/index.html](https://www.nrc.gov/public-involve/conference-symposia/ric/index.html)

NRC Press Release:

We are pleased to announce that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's 36th Annual Regulatory Information Conference (RIC) will be held March 12–14, 2024, as a hybrid event. Attendees may participate in person at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Road, Rockville, MD 20852. Online viewing will be available for people who wish to participate virtually. Although the NRC does not endorse any particular commercial lodging, for the convenience of RIC participants, a limited number of sleeping rooms have been reserved at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center.

The NRC RIC 2024 Room Block is NOW OPEN. To make your room reservation, please visit the Marriott's RIC hotel reservation web page or call Marriott reservations directly at 1-800-859-8003 and provide the group name NRC RIC 2024. We encourage you to make your reservations early, as there are a limited number of rooms available at the NRC group rate, and they tend to sell out extremely fast. Room block pricing is subject to availability at the current U.S. Federal government per diem rate. A valid credit card will be required at the time of booking to make your reservation. The cut-off date for making reservations is February 19, 2024. You may make, modify, or cancel your reservation up to the February 19th cut-off date at no charge. NOTE: All reservations require a nonrefundable advance deposit of one night's lodging (\$258 + 13% tax) which will be processed for payment on February 20, 2024, for all active reservations. All reservations canceled after February 19th will not be refunded the advance deposit. If you contact the host hotel and find there are no rooms available inside the room block, you may inquire as to room rates available outside of the block at the host hotel. As an alternative, you may request to be transferred to the sister property, Bethesda Marriott Hotel, which is offering a limited number of rooms at the government per diem rate. If the host hotel, Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, is your preferred hotel but no rooms are available at the time of reservation, you may want to check back with the Marriott reservations desk closer to the date of the conference for cancellations and possible room availability at the group rate. You can also find a listing of nearby lodging on the Hotel Information page of the NRC's RIC website. Please visit the NRC's RIC website as detailed conference information is posted as it becomes available. Should you have any questions, you are welcome to contact us at RICHelpDesk.Resource@nrc.gov.

Southeast Compact Commission Names Mark Lewis as the Richard S. Hodes Award Recipient for 2023

The Southeast Commission selected Mark Lewis to receive the 2023 Richard S. Hodes Award. Mr. Lewis has dedicated his career to the safe and compliant transportation, packaging, and disposal of radioactive material, radioactive waste, and mixed waste. He is principally responsible for developing and delivering training coursework that has become the industry standard for many new and experienced radioactive material and waste shippers, and over the years he has trained and advised thousands of shippers including nuclear power plant employees, Department of Defense personnel, inspectors, and other workers in the nuclear, radiation

protection, and waste management industries. Following the breakup of the former Soviet Union and the retreat of Russian regulators back to Russia, he was nominated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the State Department to assist Ukraine with the development of new radioactive material transportation regulations. Additionally, he has been sponsored by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to represent U.S. interests on a committee of the International Atomic Energy Agency that was tasked with convincing third world countries it was safe for radioactive materials to be shipped into and through their countries.

Appalachian CompactDelaware • Maryland •
Pennsylvania • West Virginia

Contributed by Rich Janati, Administrator, rjanati@pa.gov

**Rich Janati Appointed to DOE's
Environmental Management Advisory
Board**

Rich Janati has been appointed to serve as a member of the DOE's Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB). The EMAB provides the Assistant Secretary for the Environmental Management (EM) with advice and recommendations on the complex issues facing the EM program. Rich is the administrator of the Appalachian Compact Commission and represents the host state of PA on the LLW Forum.

**Small Modular Reactors for PA and OH
Facilities**

It was announced that NuScale Power has been selected by Standard Power to provide small modular reactors (SMRs) to power facilities in PA and OH that would run nearby data centers. Entral Energy, an independent global production company, will support the two Standard Power Projects. Based on Standard Power's plans for the two facilities, NuScale will provide 24 units of 77-MWe modules, collectively producing 1,848 MWe from both the PA and OH facilities (Source: *Nuclear News* with permission).

Atlantic Compact

Connecticut • New Jersey • South Carolina

**Meeting
March 20, 2024**

The Atlantic Compact Commission will meet on March 20, 2024 in Columbia, South Carolina. Also the Barnwell Working Group will meet prior to the Commission meeting. For more information please contact max@atlanticcompact.org

Central Midwest Compact

Illinois • Kentucky

**Meeting
September 17, 2024****FY 23 Annual Report**

The Central Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission Compact for FY 23 is now available on the website at <https://cmcompact.org/wp-content/uploads/FY-2023-Annual-Report.pdf>

Northwest Compact

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

Personnel News

The NWIC is looking towards the retirement of Earl Fordham in early 2025. Paperwork will be submitted to promote Kristen Schwab to Executive Director/Chair.

Southeast Compact

Alabama • Florida • Georgia •
Mississippi • Tennessee • Virginia

2023 Hodes Award

The Hodes Award recipient has been named for 2023. See the separate article in this issue.

Texas Compact

Texas • Vermont

Meeting December 14, 2023

The agenda included a Rules Committee Report with an update on Impact Analysis on Small Business affected by Proposed Rulemaking changes. An additional item was Consideration for Publication of Proposed Revisions to Texas Administrative Code 675.24 (Management Rule) in the Texas Register.

Link to the webinar at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO3T-LFxnAc&feature=youtu.be>

NRC to Hold Virtual Meeting Dec. 21 to Seek Public Comments on Draft Environmental Report for Comanche Peak License Renewal

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a virtual meeting from 2-4 p.m. Central time on Dec. 21 to gather comments on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement for renewing the operating licenses of the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant for an additional 20 years. Comanche Peak Unit 1's operating license expires Feb. 8, 2030, and Unit 2's on Feb. 2, 2033.

The NRC's review of the license renewal application consists of a safety review and an environmental review. The draft report is part of the NRC's environmental review and is available on the NRC's website. The final environmental report is anticipated to be issued in spring 2024.

In addition to providing oral comments at the meeting, members of the public also can submit comments three other ways: Online at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), under Docket ID NRC-2022-0183; email to Tam.Tran@nrc.gov; or by U.S. Mail to Office of Administration, Mail Stop TWFN-7- A60M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

The deadline for submitting comments is Dec. 26.

Source: NRC News Release No: IV-23-012
December 14, 2023

Contact: Victor Dricks, 817-200-1128

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Membership

Northwest Compact

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

Midwest Compact

- Indiana
- Iowa
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Ohio
- Wisconsin

Appalachian Compact

- Delaware
- Maryland
- Pennsylvania
- West Virginia

Rocky Mountain Compact

- Colorado
- Nevada
- New Mexico

Northwest accepts Rocky Mountain waste as agreed between Compacts

Central Midwest Compact

- Illinois
- Kentucky

Atlantic Compact

- Connecticut
- New Jersey
- South Carolina

Southwestern Compact

- Arizona
- California
- South Dakota
- North Dakota

Texas Compact

- Texas
- Vermont

Central Compact

- Arkansas
- Kansas
- Louisiana
- Oklahoma

Southeast Compact

- Alabama
- Florida
- Georgia
- Mississippi
- Tennessee
- Virginia

Unaffiliated States

- District of Columbia
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Nebraska
- New Hampshire
- New York
- North Carolina
- Puerto Rico
- Rhode Island

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- 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 government databases) <http://www.access.gpo.gov>
- U.S. Senate Document Room - 202/224-7860
- Variety of documents through numerous links at LLW Forum, Inc. at <https://llwforum.org/>

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