



# **NRC Welcome and Overview**

**Public Meeting on Blending of  
Low-Level Radioactive Waste**

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# Welcome

- NRC hosting 4 public meetings on blending
  - First three meetings held with WCS, ES, and Studsvik
- Purpose
  - To gather information on key issues
- Scope
  - Issues of blending to be address in Commission paper
- Collaborative discussion



## Background

- Limited disposal options since closure of Barnwell
- Scale of proposed blending has expanded
- Definition of blending



## Current NRC Position on Blending

- Recent NRC staff letters
- Blending -- not in NRC regulations
- NRC guidance – both discourages and acknowledges as appropriate at times
- Waste classification related to disposal



## Chairman's Direction

- Issues related to intentional changes in waste classification
- Protection of public and environment
- Technical considerations (concentration averaging and physical mixing)
- Practical considerations in operating a waste treatment facility, disposal facility, or other facilities
- Recommendations for revisions to existing guidance, or oversight related to blending of LLW



## Stakeholder Views December Public Meetings

- **Pro**
  - Blending facilitates disposal in absence of class B/C disposal option
  - Blending is a risk-informed approach
  - Blending is not dilution
  - Blending doesn't significantly affect volumes
  - Blending is OK per NRC guidance and regulations
- **Cons**
  - Blending is contrary to basic WM principle to reduce waste volume
  - Blending jeopardizes viability of new WCS facility by eliminating B/C waste (and revenue) stream
  - Blending is equivalent to disposing of B/C waste in Class A facility



## Agenda

- **Regulatory infrastructure**
- **Safety, security, and environmental protection**
- **Practical considerations**
- **Regulatory considerations**
- **Policy considerations**



## Path forward

- Status quo
- Guidance
- Policy Statement
- Rulemaking
- No decision at this time