



NRC Activities for Controlling the Disposition of Solid Materials

**Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

Range of Solid Material

- No radioactivity, or very small amount, from licensed operations
 - No, or limited, contact with radioactive materials
- Appreciable amounts of radioactivity
 - Kept separate
 - Licensed disposal

Current Approach

- Case-by-case review
- Radiation survey
- Release, if guidelines are met

NRC Goal: Protection of Public Health and Safety

- Review existing approach
 - Existing approach protects public health
 - Improve to make more consistent
- Evaluate alternatives
 - Invite public input
 - Rulemaking and NEPA processes

Preliminary Alternatives

- Allow release to any disposition path after a radiation survey confirms that release criterion has been met
- Limit disposition pathways
 - Restrict to EPA regulated landfill disposal
 - Conditional uses of material (i.e. roadbeds, reuse of tools)
 - Case-by-case requests by licensees
- Disposal in licensed LLW disposal site

Information Gathering

- Stakeholders:
 - Metals and cement industries; citizen groups and individuals; licensees; Federal/State/local agencies; Tribal governments; scientific organizations; solid waste industry
- National Academies Study
 - 3 information gathering meetings open to the public – 2001
- May 21-22, 2003 workshop
- September 10, 2003 public meeting with NEI

Technical Information

- Technical studies
 - Modeling could be based on NUREG-1640, which has undergone peer review and public comment
 - NUREG-1640 contains values for some media and various landfills
- Input from scientific organizations
 - 1 mrem/yr criterion is protective of health and safety according to NCRP, ICRP, NAS, ANSI
- Input from international efforts
 - IAEA's draft DS-161, which promotes general clearance for unrestricted uses, could promote trade consistency

Information Gathered

- Diverse views on unrestricted use
 - Health considerations
 - Economic issues
- Restricted Uses
 - Questions about applying and/or enforcing generically
 - NRC could outline process
- Landfill disposal
 - Siting, modeling, costs, regulatory authority
 - Conditions on releases

Public Comments

- **Scoping Summary Report** - contains a concise summary of the public comments received regarding the alternatives and environmental impacts the GEIS should address
- **NUREG/CR-6682, Supplement 1** ("Summary and Categorization of Public Comments on Controlling the Disposition of Solid Materials") - provides a digest of the public comment letters and e-mails (over 2,600) received

Current Actions

- Rule Language development
- Statement of Considerations preparation
- Generic Environmental Impact Statement development
- Regulatory Analysis development
- Regulatory Guidance preparation

Rulemaking Website and Contacts

- Website: www.nrc.gov/materials.html (under “Key Topics,” link to “Controlling the Disposition of Solid Materials”)
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