

Nuclear Energy Industry Approach on Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management

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Industry White Paper

- Purpose is to guide industry actions to proactively address low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) management issues
- Facilitates an integrated approach involving the industry organizations (NEI, EPRI and INPO)
- Issued in December 2008 –will be updated annually or as needed



Goal and Objectives

■ Goal

- Provide safe, cost-effective and reliable means for LLRW management

■ Objectives

1. Implement safe, secure and cost-effective interim storage
2. Optimize LLRW generation and processing to facilitate disposal
3. Establish reliable disposal options with predictable costs



Principles

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



Near-Term Industry Actions

- Implement safe and secure interim storage of Class B and C LLRW
- Implement operational measures to optimize LLRW generation –considering disposal & storage options
- Promote enhanced flexibility in regulatory LLRW management criteria & guidance



Longer-Term Industry Actions

- Engage waste compacts, states and federal agencies in developing and implementing an integrated national strategy for safe, effective and reliable low-level waste management
- Propose changes to NRC regulation
- Consider possible legislative action



Enhancing the Regulatory Framework

- Near-term (2009-2011):
 - Branch Technical Positions
 - ◆ Criteria for blending similar waste forms
 - ◆ Waste concentration averaging and waste classification
 - Alternative classification criteria w/in existing regulation (10 CFR 61.58)
- Longer-Term (2012 and beyond):
 - Rulemaking (10 CFR 61)



List of Acronyms

- EPRI (Electric Power Research Institute)
- INPO (Institute of Nuclear Power Operations)
- NEI (Nuclear Energy Institute)
- NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission)

