



Southeast Compact Commission
for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management

February 5, 2002

Richard S. Hodes, M.D.
Chairman

James L. Setser
Vice-Chairman

Michael H. Mobley
Secretary-Treasurer

Kathryn V. Haynes, M.P.H.
Executive Director

Mr. Douglas M. Collins
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
61 Forysth St., SW
Suite 23T85
Atlanta, GA 30323

Re: Treatment and Disposal Facilities Available to Southeast Generators

Dear Mr. Collins:

One of the primary objectives for the Southeast Compact Commission in 2002 is to preserve and promote access to treatment and disposal facilities to meet the needs of Southeast waste generators. As a part of that effort, the Commission maintains information about the facilities that are available and the frequent changes in their waste acceptance criteria and the services they offer.

We recently received the enclosed letter from Mr. Stephen Romano of American Ecology, summarizing the waste acceptance criteria at their facilities in Idaho, Texas, and Washington, and providing updated contact information. This letter is a good example of the type of information available to you in the Commission office when you have questions about services available to meet your waste management needs.

The Commission is considering whether to compile a directory of waste management services available to Southeast generators. If you believe this sort of directory would be useful to you, or if there are other needs you would like to communicate to the Commission, please contact me at 919-821-0500 or khaynes@secompact.org.

Sincerely,

Kathryn V. Haynes
Executive Director

Enclosure

21 Glenwood Avenue, Suite 207
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
(919) 821-0500 fax (919) 821-1090
e-mail: secc@secompact.org

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There are no total concentration limits specified for the Texas Ecologists facility, however, limitations may apply for specific shipments.

US Ecology's Richland, Washington radioactive waste disposal facility primarily serves as the Northwest Compact's regional facility, and only accepts NRC regulated low-level waste from the eleven states of the Northwest and Rocky Mountain Compacts. However, the Richland site is eligible to receive non-NRC regulated NORM/ NARM materials from any state without regard to Compact restrictions. Our NORM/NARM limits are:

- Class A radium-226, 10 nCi/g or less, in approved packages.
- Class C, stable radium-226, greater than 10 nCi/g, in approved packages. Sealed sources of radium-226 are acceptable.
- Any other non-NRC regulated sources of radiation (i.e., exempted sources, unimportant quantities of source material and accelerator produced radioactive material) in approved packages.

Further information on regulatory requirements and waste acceptance criteria is available from our Corporate Radiation Safety Officer Russ Meyer, C.H.P., at (512) 255-9334.

For customer service information, interested parties are invited to contact:

- Texas Customer Service Manager Donna Howard at (800)242-3209
- Idaho Customer Service Manager Lynn Lawson at (800) 274-1516, or
- Richland NARM Customer Service Manager Laura Lee Barry at (509) 946-4945

We hope this information summarizing the radiological materials acceptance criteria for the three American Ecology Corporation disposal facilities is useful to you and your staff.

Sincerely,



Stephen A. Romano
President and Chief Operating Officer

cc: Russ Meyer, C.H.P., Radiation Safety Officer
Lynn Lawson, US Ecology Idaho
Donna Howard, Texas Ecologists
Laura Lee Barry, US Ecology Richland

American Ecology

STEPHEN A ROMANO
President and
Chief Operating Officer

January 4, 2002

James Setser, Chief
Program Coordination Branch
Environmental Protection Division
Department of Natural Resources
205 Butler Street, Suite 1152 East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Environmentally Sound Disposal of Non-NRC Regulated Radioactive Materials at US Ecology Idaho, Texas Ecologists and US Ecology, Richland Disposal Facilities

Dear Mr. Setser:

Recently, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality approved a permit modification for US Ecology Idaho's Grand View, Idaho hazardous waste disposal facility more clearly defining the non-NRC regulated radioactive materials the facility may accept. Our Idaho Waste Acceptance Criteria allow us to receive:

- Unimportant quantities of source material (i.e. less than 0.05% by weight), with maximum concentrations of all nuclides not exceeding 2000 pCi/g.
- Naturally occurring radioactive material ("NORM") and technologically enhanced NORM, with maximum concentrations of all nuclides not exceeding 2000 pCi/g.
- Accelerator produced radioactive material meeting Type A shipment limits in metal packaging, with a surface dose rate no greater than 10 millirem/ hour.
- Listed devices, items and other sources of radiation specifically exempted from regulation by the NRC in 10 CFR Parts 30 and 40.

Our Texas Ecologists hazardous waste facility near Corpus Christi, Texas is authorized by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to accept the following radiological materials with Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control concurrence:

- Unimportant quantities of source material (i.e. less than 0.05% by weight).
 - Radium 226 and 228 at concentrations not exceeding 30 pCi/g each.
 - Other NORM radionuclides at concentrations not exceeding 150 pCi/g.
 - Listed devices, items and other sources of radiation specifically exempted from regulation by the NRC in 10 CFR Parts 30 and 40.
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