

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

January 15, 1987

IE INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 87-03: SEGREGATION OF HAZARDOUS AND LOW-LEVEL  
RADIOACTIVE WASTES

Addressees:

All NRC licensees.

Purpose:

This notice is provided to inform all licensees who generate low-level radioactive waste that their internal controls should be sufficient to preclude inclusion of nonradioactive hazardous wastes (as defined by EPA regulations) in low-level radioactive waste to be disposed of at low-level waste disposal sites. It is suggested that recipients review this notice for applicability to their facilities. Suggestions contained in this information notice do not constitute NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Description of Circumstances:

During a recent state inspection at the Richland, Washington waste disposal site, an inspector discovered a drum leaking elemental mercury. This suggests that some licensees who generate waste are not fully complying with their responsibility to ensure that wastes which are not radioactive, but may contain other hazardous wastes, are segregated at the point of generation and disposed of properly. In this particular instance the waste package contained elemental mercury and mercury compounds, which are hazardous wastes, and trash along with small amounts of radioactive waste. The licensee could have easily segregated the wastes, but either had no procedures for doing so or did not implement them. The licensee's failure to segregate the wastes was discovered at the disposal facility during routine inspection of waste shipments before burial. Subsequently, the licensee was denied future access to the site, pending demonstration that adequate corrective measures were in place. Revised procedures that were reviewed by the State of Washington and implemented by the licensee, have allowed the licensee access to the site.

Discussion:

The three currently operating low-level radioactive waste disposal sites are at Barnwell, South Carolina; Beatty, Nevada; and Richland, Washington. According to the 10 CFR 61.52(a)(11), only wastes containing or contaminated with radioactive material may be disposed of at such a facility. These sites are not authorized to receive and dispose of hazardous waste under the Environmental

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Protection Agency's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations. Licensees who generate low-level radioactive waste should review their procedures for waste management to ensure that actions have been implemented to segregate hazardous waste from low-level radioactive waste.

No specific action or written response is required by this information notice. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact the Regional Administrator of the appropriate regional office or this office.

Edward L. Jordan, Director  
 Division of Emergency Preparedness  
 and Engineering Response  
 Office of Inspection and Enforcement

Technical Contact: Sher Bahadur, NMSS  
 (301) 427-4495

Attachment:  
 List of Recently Issued IE Information Notices.

\*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES

OFC	:*PSAS:IE	:*SMPB:IE	:*NMSS	:*C:SMBP:IE	:*C:EGCB:IE	:*D:DI:IE
NAME	:DGable	:AGrella	:SBahadur	:GSjoblom	:Rbaer	:JPartlow
DATE	:12/3/86sc	:12/10/86	:12/9/86	:12/10/86	:12/31/86	:12/22/86
OFC	:*DD:DEPER:IE	:D:DEPER:IE	:	:	:	:
NAME	:SSchwartz	:EJ Jordan	:	:	:	:
DATE	:1/2/87	:1/12/87	:	:	:	:

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED  
 IE INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issue	Issued to
87-02	Inadequate Seismic Qualification of Diaphragm Valves by Mathematical Modeling and Analysis	1/15/87	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
87-01	RHR Valve Misalignment Causes Degradation of ECCS in PWRs	1/6/87	All PWR facilities holding an OL or CP
86-110	Anomalous Behavior of Recirculation Loop Flow in Jet Pump BWR Plants	12/31/86	All BWR facilities holding an OL or CP
86-109	Diaphragm Failure In Scram Outlet Valve Causing Rod Insertion	12/29/86	All BWR facilities holding an OL or CP
86-108	Degradation Of Reactor Coolant System Pressure Boundary Resulting From Boric Acid Corrosion	12/29/86	All PWR facilities holding an OL or CP
86-107	Entry Into PWR Cavity With Retractable Incore Detector Thimbles Withdrawn	12/29/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-106	Feedwater Line Break	12/16/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-105	Potential For Loss Of Reactor Trip Capability At Intermediate Power Levels	12/19/86	All holders of OL or CP for PWR or BWR
86-104	Unqualified Butt Splice Connectors Identified In Qualified Penetrations	12/16/86	All pressurized and boiling-water reactor facilities holding an OL or CP
86-14 Supplement 1	Overspeed Trips Of AFW, HPCI, And RCIC Turbines	12/17/86	All power reactor facilities holding an OL or CP

OL = Operating License  
 CP = Construction Permit

Discussion:

The three currently operating low-level radioactive waste disposal sites are at Barnwell, South Carolina; Beatty, Nevada; and Richland, Washington. According to the 10 CFR 61.52(a)(11), only wastes containing or contaminated with radioactive material may be disposed of at such a facility. These sites are not authorized to receive and dispose of hazardous waste under the Environmental Protection Agency's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations. Licensees who generate low-level radioactive waste should review their procedures for waste management to ensure that actions have been implemented to segregate hazardous waste from low-level radioactive waste.

No specific action or written response is required by this information notice. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact the Regional Administrator of the appropriate regional office or this office.

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OFC	: PSAS: IE	: SMPB: IE	: NMSS	: C: SMPB: IE	: DD: DI: IE	: D: DI: IE
NAME	: DGable	: AGrella	: SBahadur	: GS Joblom	: RSpessard	: JPartlow
DATE	: 12/03/86sc	: 12/10/86	: 12/09/86	: 12/10/86	: 12/ /86	: 12/ /86

*by phone*

*R. S. WEA  
12/31/86*

OFC	: DD: DEPER: IE	: D: DEPER: IE	:	:	:	:
NAME	: SSchwartz	: ELJordan	:	:	:	:
DATE	: 12/2/86	: 12/ /86	:	:	:	:

*mkp  
with  
changes*