

DRAFT OMB SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR  
NRC FORMS 542 AND 542A  
UNIFORM LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANIFEST  
INDEX AND REGIONAL COMPACT TABULATION  
(3150-0165)

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EXTENSION REQUEST

Description of the Information Collection

Current industry practice requires standardized forms to meet Department of Transportation (DOT), NRC, and State requirements. NRC Form 542 is specifically designed to provide the means to meet the authority of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985. Although DOT requires the information, it does not require that it be completed on a Federal form. NUREG/BR-0204, Rev. 2, contains instructions for completing NRC Forms 540, 540A, 541, 541A, 542, and 542A.

NRC Form 542 and continuation Form 542A were developed by NRC at the request of low-level waste industry groups. These forms are completed by waste collectors or processors. Tracking the identity of the waste generator becomes more complicated when the waste forms, dimensions, or packagings are changed by the waste processor. Each container of waste shipped from a waste processor may contain waste from several different generators. This information is listed on NRC Forms 542 and 542A.

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Need for and Practical Utility of the Collection of Information

To meet existing regulations, each shipment of low-level waste (LLW) is currently accompanied by a manifest that describes the shipment contents as required in 10 CFR Part 20 and the DOT regulations in 49 CFR Part 172. Presently, there are three LLW disposal facilities in operation. The detailed information requested on NRC Form 542 will enhance the ability of NRC and State regulatory agencies to control and safely regulate disposal of LLW. Licensees must use specified NRC forms, including NRC Form 542, pursuant to Appendix G to 10 CFR Part 20.

2. Agency Use of Information

The agency require the information on NRC Forms 542 and 542A to ensure that States and Compacts know the original generators of LLW, as authorized by the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985, so that the waste is disposed of in the appropriate Compact.

3. Reduction of Burden through Information Technology

There are no legal obstacles to the use of information technology. NRC has structured the forms so that LLW generators may transmit the information electronically to either waste brokers or the LLW disposal site facility on a voluntary basis for their convenience. The Department of Energy (DOE) has developed software (LOW-TRACK) to allow licensees to transmit NRC Form 542 electronically and makes the software available free to licensees. The information is not transmitted to NRC.

4. Effort to Identify Duplication and Use Similar Information

Duplication is reduced by requiring all LLW shipments undertaken by various agencies to use the uniform NRC shipment manifest forms. There is no reasonable and economic way to obtain the information other than through the use of shipment manifests. NRC Form 542 replaces previously-used manifests.

5. Effort to Reduce Small Business Burden

The required information is necessary from all shippers of LLW. To the extent that small entities may make fewer waste shipments than larger entities, fewer manifests would be required of small entities and their burden would be proportionately less. DOE has developed free software (LOW-TRACK) for LLW shippers' use. NRC has evaluated this software to ensure that all regulatory requirements are met.

6. Consequences to Federal Program or Policy Activities if the Collection is Not Conducted or is Conducted Less Frequently

If the collection is not conducted at all or is conducted less frequently, NRC and State regulatory agencies will not be able to obtain information needed to control and safely regulate disposal of LLW.

7. Circumstances Which Justify Variation from OMB Guidelines

There are no variations from OMB guidelines.

8. Consultations Outside the NRC

The opportunity for comment on the information collection requirements has been published in the Federal Register.

9. Payment or Gift to Respondents

Not applicable.

10. Confidentiality of the Information

Not applicable. No confidential information is requested.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

This information collection does not involve sensitive questions.

12. Estimated Burden and Burden Hour Cost

It is estimated that 756 NRC Forms 542 will be processed annually by 22 licensees. Only collectors/processors complete this form. The average burden to complete the form is estimated to be .75 hours. The total industry burden for completion of the form is estimated at 567 hours annually (756 forms x .75 hours). Professional personnel will complete this information. Therefore, total cost is estimated to be \$89,586 (567 hrs x \$158/hr).

13. Estimate of Other Additional Costs

There are no additional costs. For licensees required to complete NRC Form 542, it is most likely that purchases of equipment and services were made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

14. Estimated Annualized Cost to the Federal Government

The estimated annual cost to the Federal Government will be approximately \$1,000 for manifest printing and distribution. This cost will be fully recovered through fee assessments to NRC licensees pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 170 and/or 171. The forms are not submitted to NRC.

15. Reasons for Changes in Burden or Cost

There is no change in burden, but the hourly cost for professional staff has increased from \$143/hr to \$158/hr.

16. Publication for Statistical Use

None.

17. Reason for Not Displaying the Expiration Date

The expiration date will be displayed on the hardcopy form. However, the electronic version of NRC Form 542, provided in software developed and distributed by DOE to allow licensees to transmit NRC Form 542 electronically, will not display an expiration date because it would not be possible to revise the expiration date after the diskettes have been distributed to licensees.

18. Exceptions to the Certification Statement

There are no exceptions.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

The collection of information does not employ statistical methods.