

October 20, 2011

ALL AGREEMENT STATE RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM
DIRECTORS
ALL STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

AVAILABILITY OF REGULATORY ISSUE SUMMARY IDENTIFYING RESOURCES TO
FACILITATE EXTENDED STORAGE OF LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE
(FSME-11-095)

Purpose: The purpose of this letter is to inform recipients of the recent completion of a Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) related to extended storage of low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) and to invite recipients to suggest material to be added to a recently created electronic link for updating LLRW storage information.

Background: Reliable access to low-level waste disposal continues to be a challenge to generators of Class B, C, and Greater-Than-Class C LLRW and sealed sources for licensees that do not have access to compact disposal facilities in South Carolina, Texas, and Washington. Many of these licensees are obliged to provide for extended storage of this waste. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and others have developed guidance and other reference material that may be useful to licensees and others faced with this challenge. The applicability of these resources is not always apparent, nor is it always readily available. To that end, in April 2010, the NRC convened a working group of internal and external subject matter experts to assess the applicability and availability of the resources. The first work product to result from these efforts is the regulatory issue summary discussed herein.

*This information request has been approved by OMB 3150-0163, expiration 01/31/2013. The estimated burden per response to comply with this voluntary collection is approximately 8 hours. Send comments regarding the burden estimate to the Records and FOIA/Privacy Services Branch (T-5F52), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by Internet e-mail to infocollects@nrc.gov, and to the Desk Officer, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, NEOB-10202 (3150-0163), Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC 20503. If a means used to impose an information collection does not display a currently valid OMB control number, the NRC may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, the information collection.

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Discussion: NRC staff has recently completed a RIS 2011-09 "Available Resources Associated with Extended Storage of Low-Level Radioactive Waste". The RIS is intended to identify information that may be helpful to all types of NRC licensees who may be providing for extended storage of LLRW in light of continuing challenges in disposal access. A hard copy of the RIS has previously been provided to agreement state radiation control program directors and state liaison officers for use and distribution as applicable. The RIS can also be accessed on the NRC's public website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/gen-comm/reg-issues/2011/ris-2011-09.pdf>.

In addition to providing a current listing and brief discussion of relevant resource material, the RIS refers to an electronic link that will provide an updatable database of resources related to extended LLRW storage. The electronic link can be found on the NRC's public website at: www.nrc.gov/waste/llw-disposal.html. The specific link, entitled "Extended Storage of LLRW-Reference Material," is found at: <http://www.nrc.gov/waste/llw-disposal/public-outreach/llw-extended-storage-information.html>.

States are invited to submit reference material relevant to aspects of extended storage of LLRW. As a guide to relevant aspects that may be considered, potential respondents are referred to SECY-10-0164, "Annual Review of the Need for Rulemaking or Regulatory Guidance on Extended Low-Level Radioactive Waste Storage," Enclosure 1, "Common Goals and Elements and Elements for All Licensees for Extended Low-Level Radioactive Waste Storage," December 31, 2010 found at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/secys/2010/secy2010-0164/2010-0164scy.pdf>.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact me at 301-415-7278, or the individual named below:

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