



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

PRD 10789

February 24, 2016

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter transmits the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) *Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Disposal of Greater-Than-Class C (GTCC) Low-Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) and GTCC-Like Waste* (DOE/EIS-0375). A full printed copy of the Final EIS has been included if requested. DOE prepared this Final EIS in accordance with the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR Part 1021). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a cooperating agency in the preparation of this Final EIS.

The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-240) assigns the Federal Government the responsibility for the disposal of GTCC LLRW, and DOE is the Federal agency responsible for GTCC LLRW disposal. GTCC LLRW has radionuclide concentrations exceeding the limits for Class C LLRW established by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). These wastes are generated by activities licensed by the NRC or Agreement States and cannot be disposed of in currently licensed commercial LLRW disposal facilities. GTCC-like waste is radioactive waste that is owned or generated by DOE and has characteristics similar to those of GTCC LLRW waste such that a common disposal approach may be appropriate. GTCC-like waste consists of LLRW and non-defense-generated transuranic waste that has no identified path for disposal.

The Final EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of DOE's proposed action and a range of reasonable alternatives for the development, operation, and long-term management of a disposal facility or facilities for GTCC LLRW and GTCC-like waste. DOE has included the preferred alternative in the Final EIS. The preferred alternative for the disposal of GTCC and GTCC-like waste is the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant geologic repository (Alternative 2) and/or land disposal at generic commercial facilities (Alternatives 3-5). These land disposal conceptual designs could be altered or enhanced, as necessary, to provide the optimal application at a given location. The preferred alternative does not include land disposal at DOE sites. In addition, there is presently no preference among the three land disposal technologies at the generic commercial sites.

In preparing this Final EIS, DOE considered all comments received during the public comment period on the Draft EIS (February 25, 2011 through June 27, 2011). Appendix J, which can be found in Volumes 3 through 5 of this Final EIS, contains all comments received during the public comment period on the Draft EIS and DOE's response to these comments.



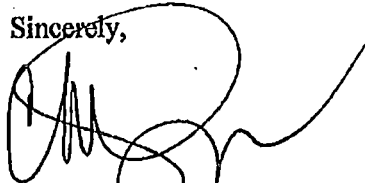
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The Final EIS will be announced by the US EPA as well as by DOE in the *Federal Register* and DOE will issue a press release. Copies of the Final EIS will be provided in designated reading rooms and the Final EIS is also available on the Department's NEPA website at: <http://energy.gov/nepa/environmental-impact-statements-eis> and on the GTCC website at <http://www.gtcceis.anl.gov/>.

Following the issuance of the Final GTCC EIS and prior to making a final decision on which disposal alternative(s) to implement, DOE will submit a Report to Congress, as required by section 631(b)(1)(B) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58) (EPACT), and await action by Congress. EPACT requires that the report include all GTCC LLRW disposal alternatives under consideration and all the information required in the comprehensive report to ensure safe disposal of GTCC LLRW that was submitted by the Secretary to Congress in February 1987. DOE will not issue a Record of Decision until its required Report to Congress has been provided and appropriate action has been taken by Congress in accordance with EPACT.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 903-1669 or Ms. Theresa Kliczewski, the GTCC EIS Document Manger, at (202) 586-3301.

Sincerely,



Christine Gelles
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Waste Management

Enclosure