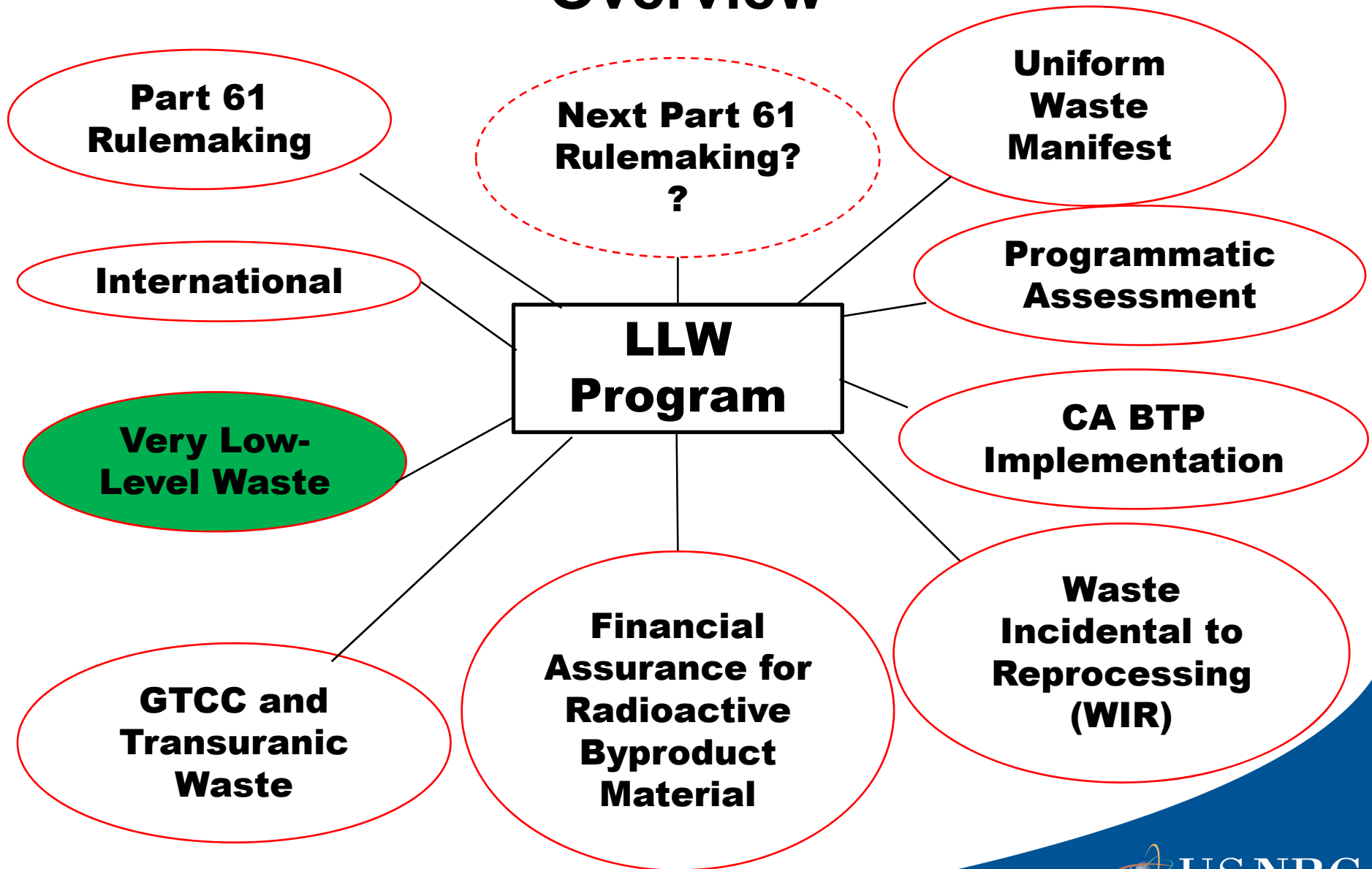


Very Low-Level Waste

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Overview



LLW Programmatic Assessment

- Strategic Assessment - 2007 ([SECY-07-0180](#))
 - Coordinate with other agencies on consistency in regulating low activity waste disposal – Medium Priority
 - Develop guidance that summarizes disposition options for low-end materials and waste – Medium Priority
 - Promulgate rule for disposal of low-activity waste (LAW) – Low Priority
- Programmatic Assessment – 2016 ([SECY-16-0118](#))
 - Perform LAW Scoping study – Medium Priority
 - 20.2002 guidance document revision to improve alternate disposal process – High Priority

Why Perform a VLLW Scoping Study?

- Medium priority in Programmatic Assessment since there is no significant safety issue driving VLLW disposal
- Evaluate the separate tasks combined in the Programmatic Assessment (rulemaking, low-end materials and waste, coordination with other agencies)
- Recognized the potential opportunity to improve regulatory efficiency and effectiveness
- Consider alignment with international standards and practices
- Recognize changes in assumptions regarding decommissioning waste volumes and timing

EPA ANPR 2003

- EPA issued the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in November 2003
- Was not a proposed rule, but presents broad concepts and asks questions
- Introduced concept of “low activity” waste
- EPA received numerous comments
- EPA did not pursue rulemaking
 - Entities would work within the existing system

EPRI Very Low-Level Waste Reports

- 2012 and 2013 EPRI technical reports recommended a VLLW disposal classification
- Report stated that this is technically possible in the US and would have positive effects
- EPRI stated large portion of Class A waste could be reclassified as VLLW
- International examples have shown successful VLLW management

Considerations of Historical Lessons Learned

- Below Regulatory Concern Policy Statements
- Disposition of Solid Materials proposed rule (2015)
- Other government agencies, including international
- Other regulatory options for VLLW disposal

Other Considerations

- Current disposal practices
- Divergent stakeholder comments
- Benchmark VLLW disposal in other countries

Other Considerations (cont.)

- The need for an enhanced and more consistent approach for regulating VLLW
- Coordination with other agencies
- Long-term VLLW disposal actions

Comments and Stakeholder Concerns

- Is 10 CFR 20.2002 the most efficient process for VLLW disposal?
- Should there be more consistency between Federal and State agencies?
- Should we align with the IAEA approach?
- Unintended Consequences?
- Do we need to further define VLLW?

VLLW Scoping Study Possible Outcomes

- Rulemaking
- Additional guidance documents
- More coordination with other agencies
- No action

Stakeholder Outreach

- Updated information on VLLW found on NRC Website:
<https://www.nrc.gov/waste/llw-disposal.html>
- Anticipate public meeting in Summer 2017 to obtain comments on the VLLW scoping study and 20.2002 guidance document.

Questions?

