

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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**Docket:** NRC-2018-0026  
Very Low-Level Radioactive Waste Scoping Study

**Comment On:** NRC-2018-0026-0001  
Very Low-Level Radioactive Waste Scoping Study

**Document:** NRC-2018-0026-DRAFT-0022  
Comment on FR Doc # 2018-03083

**SUNSI Review Complete**  
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**ADD= Kellee Jamerson**

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COMMENT #22  
PUBICATION DATE:  
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CITATION # 83 FR 6619

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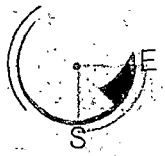
## General Comment

See attached file(s)

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## Attachments

SECC Comment Re VLLW Scoping Study



**Southeast Compact Commission**  
for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management

States Working for Responsible Waste Management

Debra G. Shults  
Chairman

Steven A. Harrison  
Vice-Chairman

Paul Burks  
Secretary-Treasurer

May 15, 2018

May Ma  
Office of Administration  
Mail Stop OWFN-2-A13  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

**RE: Request for Comments on the Very Low-Level Radioactive Waste Scoping Study as  
Published at 83 *Federal Register* 6,619  
Docket ID NRC-2018-0026**

Dear May Ma:

The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985 (the Act) gave the states responsibility for the disposal of their low-level radioactive waste (LLRW). The Act encouraged the states to enter into compacts that would allow them to dispose of waste at a common regional disposal facility. The Southeast Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Compact (the Southeast Compact) was enacted by its party states in 1983 and ratified by Congress in 1985 with passage of the Act and is one of ten interstate compacts with the authority to regulate the import and export of LLRW to and from its compact party states. Party states currently include Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia.

The mission of the Southeast Compact Commission (the Commission) is to ensure that adequate, reliable, and appropriate services are available to manage LLRW streams generated in the Southeast Compact Region and to promote and facilitate the maximum use of those services by the party states.

Request for Comments, re: Very Low-Level Radioactive Waste Scoping Study

On February 14, 2018, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) published a *Federal Register* notice announcing the agency's plans to conduct a very low-level radioactive waste (VLLW) scoping study to identify possible options to improve and strengthen the NRC's regulatory framework for the disposal of the anticipated large volumes of VLLW associated with the decommissioning of nuclear power plants and material sites, as well as waste that might be generated by alternative waste streams that may be created by operating reprocessing facilities or a radiological event. (See 83 *Federal Register* 6,619 dated February 14, 2018.)

As part of the process, the NRC is seeking stakeholder input and perspectives. Respondents are asked to consider specific questions posed by the NRC staff and other federal agencies in the *Federal Register* notice.

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## Comments in Response to Specific NRC Questions

The Commission provides only one specific response to the questions posed by the NRC:

### *Compact Authority*

*Question 5: Following the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985, states formed regional compacts for the disposal of low-level radioactive waste. If the NRC were to create a new waste category for VLLW, does it fall within regional compact authority to control VLLW management and disposal? How might defining VLLW affect regional compacts in terms of additional responsibilities or resources?*

The Southeast Compact and the other nine regional LLRW compacts have the authority granted to them under the Act to regulate, and even prohibit, the import of LLRW as defined in each respective compact that was ratified by the Act in 1985. If the study were to result in a new waste category for VLLW, it is our understanding that VLLW would be subject to the authority of the Southeast Compact and the other regional compacts created by the Act.

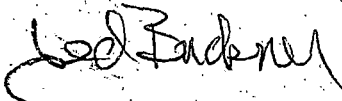
**The Commission is not providing any additional specific comments to the NRC at this time.**

The Commission is a fully participating member of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum (LLW Forum). The LLW Forum has collected and consolidated a number of comments from the other regional compacts and individual states, that have primary authority with regard to LLRW management and disposal. The Commission supports the comments of the other compacts and states and encourages the NRC to consider those comments as the NRC proceeds with the scoping study.

The Southeast Compact Commission will participate as the NRC proceeds with the scoping study and encourages NRC staff to communicate fully with the compacts and states given their significant role and responsibilities in the management and disposal of LLRW.

Please feel free to contact me at (919) 380-7780 or at [tedb@secompact.org](mailto:tedb@secompact.org) if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Ted Buckner  
Executive Director  
Southeast Compact Commission