



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 29, 2019

ALL AGREEMENT AND NON-AGREEMENT STATES
STATE LIAISON OFFICERS

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR COMMENT: DRAFT REGULATORY BASIS: DISPOSAL OF
GREATER-THAN-CLASS C AND TRANSURANIC WASTE (STC-19-047)

Purpose: To provide notification that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has published a *Federal Register* notice (FRN) seeking public comment on a draft regulatory basis relating to the disposal of greater-than-Class C (GTCC) and transuranic waste.

Background: Under its regulations in Part 61 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the NRC classifies low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) into three classes, namely Class A, Class B, and Class C, based on the radiological hazard as determined by the concentration of radionuclides prescribed for each class. Class C is the most hazardous of the three categories, and LLRW streams that contain radionuclide concentrations exceeding the limits for Class C waste are referred to as "greater-than-Class C" (GTCC) waste. GTCC waste is typically activated metals from power reactors, sealed sources, and waste material from medical isotopes, but it may also contain special nuclear material such as enriched uranium or plutonium.

Currently, there are no facilities licensed to dispose of GTCC waste, so it is being stored at nuclear power plants or at interim storage sites. The draft regulatory basis evaluates whether certain GTCC waste could be safely disposed in a near-surface disposal facility. It also evaluates whether regulatory changes would need to be considered to permit such action, and whether the NRC or Agreement States could regulate such disposal.

Discussion: The FRN was published in the *Federal Register* on July 22, 2019 (84 FR 35037) and posted on the Federal e-rulemaking portal <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. NRC-2017-0081. The FRN can also be accessed at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-07-22/pdf/2019-15434.pdf>.

The FRN details how to access the draft regulatory basis and submit comments. Comments are due by September 20, 2019. The NRC will hold a public meeting on August 27, 2019 in Austin, Texas to present the draft regulatory basis and receive comments. Details on that meeting will be published at later date.

If you have any questions regarding the draft regulatory basis or this correspondence, please contact the individual named below:

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Patricia K. Holahan, Director
Division of Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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