



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Bureau of Environment
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Gentlemen:

Pursuant to national policy regarding low-level radioactive waste (LLW) and our broad charge to protect the public health and environment we have amended the licenses of our waste processors. They were amended to preclude the processing, extended storage, and/or transportation of LLW and materials from states not in compliance with the National LLW Policy Act.

While I recognize that the processing of the waste or materials can result in a much better waste form, thus reducing the hazard, I believe this action is necessary to ensure that the citizens of Tennessee are not subjected to increased risk from these materials because of actions beyond our borders. To ensure fairness and equitable pursuit of our national policy I am requesting that you review the status of any LLW processors you may license or exert influence upon. A major concern from the regulatory perspective is what happens to the waste once it is processed. Will it be stored in your state or region? Will the transportation risk be increased by additional shipments to or from some storage site? Finally, is it subverting national policy to have one state process, handle and store a non-compliant state's waste?

As you know, Tennessee and the Southeast Compact has been very proactive in supporting establishment of a rational process for dealing with LLW issues. Tennessee believes its processors offer an excellent service to many generators, which results in less waste to handle, in a much safer form for disposal. However, it is not our intention to allow Tennessee licensed facilities to be utilized in attempts to circumvent national policy or to become a defacto repository for LLW.

Your comments and support would be most appreciated. I hope that by arriving at some national consensus we can continue to move forward.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Mobley
Director
Division of Radiological Health
Commissioner, Southeast Low-Level Waste Compact

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