



NRC NEWS

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EO 14300 Rulemaking

NRC Proposes Major Update to Radioactive Waste Disposal Rules

ROCKVILLE, Md. — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today [proposed](#) a rule that would establish a clear regulatory pathway for disposing of Greater-Than-Class-C (GTCC) radioactive waste. The proposal aims to resolve a decades-old challenge that has left certain higher-activity radioactive waste without a defined disposal option and stranded at sites across the country.

The proposed rule would modernize the NRC’s framework for land disposal of low-level radioactive waste by allowing disposal facilities to use site-specific, risk-informed analyses to safely manage a broader range of radioactive materials. These updates would offer greater regulatory flexibility while maintaining rigorous protections for workers, the public, and the environment.

“A strong nuclear sector requires more than reactors—it requires a complete fuel cycle and a clear pathway for managing radioactive waste,” NRC Chairman Ho K. Nieh said. “This proposal replaces the dead-end of continued storage with a modern framework that protects people and the environment while supporting the next generation of nuclear technologies. It is an example of how the NRC can uphold its safety mission while adapting to the realities of today’s nuclear industry.”

The proposal would create new disposal options for GTCC waste, including near-surface and deeper disposal pathways, and update requirements to reflect advances in science, engineering, and waste management practices. These changes would provide generators and disposal facilities a more predictable and durable framework for planning future waste-disposal needs.

GTCC waste includes certain higher-activity radioactive materials generated through commercial nuclear operations. Because current regulations do not provide a clear disposal pathway, generators and disposal facilities have faced longstanding regulatory uncertainty.

The NRC will accept public comments on the proposed rule for 45 days following publication in the Federal Register. Comments may be submitted through [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket ID NRC-2011-0012. The agency also plans to hold a public meeting on the proposal. Details will be announced on the NRC website.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was created as an expert, technical agency to protect public health, safety, and security, and regulate the civilian use of nuclear materials, including enabling the deployment of nuclear power for the benefit of society. Among other responsibilities, the agency issues licenses, conducts inspections, initiates and enforces regulations, and plans for incident response. The NRC is collaborating with interagency partners to implement reforms outlined in new Executive Orders and the ADVANCE Act to streamline agency activities and enhance efficiency.