

## RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL AT THE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL DISPOSAL SITE

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### ABSTRACT

The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985 specifies waste volumes, utility allocations, and surcharges. Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc. has instituted several administrative requirements to meet the specifications. The Volume Allocation Plan has been replaced by Shipment Scheduling and in-region volume estimates. Waste brokers and processing facilities must report region of origin for waste shipped for disposal. Southeast generators must ship all suitable waste to the Barnwell Waste Management Facility. Wastes received from out-of-region generators will be assessed a surcharge of ten dollars (\$10) per cubic foot of waste. Efficient waste disposal requires the cooperation of all the various parties, i.e. generators, carriers, disposers, and regulators.

### INTRODUCTION

The passage of the Low Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985 (LLRWPA) necessitates a number of administrative requirements for the disposal of low level radioactive waste at the Chem-Nuclear Barnwell, S.C. Site. These requirements affect receipt of waste volume, accounting for allocations to utility generators, and collections of surcharges. The impact of the requirements on the operation of the Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc. Radioactive Waste Management Facility (Site) will be discussed below.

### VOLUME LIMITS AND ALLOCATION

Several years ago, the State of South Carolina placed an annual limit on the volume of waste that could be buried at the Site of 1.2 million cubic feet. This action required the development of a Volume Allocation Plan (VAP) to equitably manage the disposal of waste from the many low level waste generators. While the LLRWPA reiterates similar annual volume limits, it obviates the need for the allocation program by Chem-Nuclear. However, information on shipment scheduling must be obtained to efficiently manage the receipt of waste at the Site. Therefore, all customers of the Site are required to notify the Site through the Shipment Scheduling Department of their intent to send a shipment to the Site.

Assuming the annual volume limit has not been reached, the customer will be given a shipment identification number (I.D.) to use on the documentation required with the shipment. The Site must be notified of any changes for the scheduled shipment and the customer must also notify the Site by telephone when the shipment leaves the customer's facility. None of these changes affect the rules previously established by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) for Prior Notification of shipments or the requirements for transport permits. In addition, to assure that the generators in the Southeast Compact Region have adequate access to the Site, annual estimates of each Southeast generator's disposal volume are required. These estimates are to be reported at the beginning of each year with quarterly updates to allow Chem-Nuclear to estimate the amount of out-of-region waste that may

be accepted without exceeding the volume limit nor failing to accord priority to a Southeast generator as the Act requires.

### BROKERS & PROCESS FACILITIES

Brokers and Process Facilities will also have an additional paperwork burden. They will now have to distinguish on the shipment documentation for activity and volume, that percentage of in-region and out-of-region waste. Additionally, for out-of-region waste the state of origin will have to be designated.

### EXPORT PROVISIONS

The Southeast Compact Commission in January, 1986 enacted a ban on the export of low-level radioactive wastes from the generators in the Southeast Compact. The ban applies to all wastes that meet the license requirements of the Site or could meet these requirements through processing the wastes by available methods. Generators producing waste not acceptable at the Site must apply to the Southeast Compact Commission for permission to export the waste as well as requesting disposal privileges at one of the other sites through its compact commission. The requirements and form of the request for approval have not yet been announced by the Southeast Compact Commission.

### SURCHARGES

In another recent action, the South Carolina Budget and Control Board has proposed the ten (\$10) dollar surcharge for each cubic foot of out-of-region waste received at the Site allowed by the LLRWPA. The proposed surcharges would take effect on March 1, 1986. There are questions about procedures for collection and the authority of the Budget and Control Board to impose this surcharge which may delay implementation.

### CONCLUSION

The passage of the LLRWPA has provided continued access to current disposal sites while new disposal sites are developed. The provisions of the act require modifications in the administrative requirements for the disposal of low-level waste at

the Barnwell Site. The changes are necessary to implement the requirements of the Act.

However, unexpected situations will certainly arise which may require additional modification to

the management system. Only through the cooperation of the generators, disposal site operators, States, and Compact Commissions can the disposal of low-level waste continue to be handled in an efficient manner.