



TEXAS

LOW LEVEL RADIOACTIVE
WASTE DISPOSAL

COMPACT COMMISSION

A Perspective on
Hot Topics & Emerging Issues
in Commercial LLRW Management

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Hot Topics

- Texas and Vermont Political Climates
- Recent Rulemaking
- TCC Funding
- Revised Waste Volume Estimates

Political Climates

- All states struggling for funding
 - Compact Commission funding not assured
- New Vermont Governor
 - Appointed two new Commissioners:
Richard Saudek and Peter Bradford
- Large projected deficits drawing significant scrutiny to all programs

Recent Rulemaking

- 31 TAC 675, Subchapter B, “Exportation and Importation of Waste”
 - §675.21, “Exportation of Waste to a Non-Party State for Disposal”
 - §675.22, “Exportation of Waste to a Non-Party State for Management or Processing and Return to the Party States for Management or for Disposal in the Compact Facility” and
 - §675.23, “Importation of Waste from a Non-Compact Generator for Disposal”
- The result of 18 months of debate, over 7000 comments, 3 public hearings and 5 public meetings.

TCC Funding

- Critical to ensure proper operation and execution of statutory duties
- Funding outlook
- New rule allows TCC to cover some administrative costs
- Current operations at minimum level

Revised Waste Volume Estimates

- Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority (TLLRWDA) Waste Volume Survey
 - Started circa 1987
 - Revised circa 1993-4, 50% participation in survey
 - Update initiated in 1998
 - Not completed due to agency
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Completed update in 2000
- June 2009, major generators provided projections that show significant reductions in anticipated disposal volumes.

Revised Waste Volume Estimates

- 2000 vs 2009 estimated disposal volume comparisons show
 - Texas utilities have **reduced**
 - Disposal *volume* estimates by $\approx 64\%$
 - Disposal *activity* estimates by $\approx 50\%$
 - Texas non-utility generators **reduced**
 - Volume by $\approx 7\%$
 - Activity by $\approx 57\%$
 - VT utility
 - **Increased** *volume* estimates by 220%
 - **Decrease** *activity* estimates by 83%
- Conclusion: A completely updated study is needed.

Emerging Issues

- Down blending
 - Potential solution for those in possession of B & C
 - Problematic for many state and federal policy makers
 - To many, turns 50+ yr policy of ALARA and waste minimization on its head
- TN Processing
 - Loss of waste ownership a concern for those who seek to ensure that foreign waste is not imported into a Compact.
- Waste Volume Trends (EPRI, L. Edwards)
 - Significant overestimate of utility waste volumes
 - Non-utility waste just as significant as utility waste

Emerging Issues, Cont.

- Depleted Uranium
- Commercial Transuranic Waste >100 nCi/g
- GTCC and “GTCC-like” Orphan Waste
- Sealed Source Storage and Security
- NORM Characterization and Disposal
- Gen IV Waste Processing and Minimization

QUESTIONS?