

## WM 2014 Conference Panel Report

### PANEL SESSION 017: Hot Topics and Emerging Issues in US Commercial LLRW Management and Disposal

**Co-Chairs:** **Todd D. Lovinger, Esq.**, *LLW Forum, Inc.*  
**Leonard Slosky**, *Rocky Mountain LLRW Board*

**Panel Reporter:** **Todd D. Lovinger, Esq.**, *LLW Forum, Inc.*

#### Panelists:

1. **Leigh Ing**, *Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission Consulting Supervisory Director*
2. **Larry Camper**, *U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, DWMEP/OFSMEMEP*
3. **Billy Cox**, *Senior Project Manager in Nuclear Chemistry at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)*
4. **Rusty Lundberg**, *Director of the Utah Division of Radiation Control*
5. **Renee Echols**, *Senior Vice-President of Sales and Marketing at Perma-Fix Environmental Services*

This panel session focused on new developments in the field of commercial low-level radioactive waste management and disposal in the United States. The session opened with five panelists presenting up to date information on various topics including the import and export of waste into and out of the Texas Compact region, federal rulemaking initiatives including a proposal to update regulations governing the land disposal of radioactive waste, potential changes under consideration for uniform manifest guidance, management and disposition of sealed sources that present a national security perspective, and advancements in waste processing and treatment technologies. This was followed by a question and answer session which included questions on the potential disposal of Greater-than-Class C waste at the WCS facility; stakeholder input on the Part 61 rulemaking initiative; and, implications of potential recommendations on source management.

#### **Summary of Presentations**

**Leigh Ing** discussed proposed changes to the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission's (TLLRWDC's) import and export rules and the White Paper on establishing the generator of low-level radioactive waste, as well as requirements and restrictions regarding waste type, origin, and volume.

**Larry Camper** summarized the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) work on the Part 61 rulemaking initiative including existing regulations; related agency rulemakings and initiatives; Commission direction and public outreach. Camper also reviewed the agency's Branch Technical Position on Concentration Averaging and Encapsulation and the low-level waste strategic assessment.

**Billy Cox** provided some background on and information about proposed revisions to low-level waste manifesting guidance, including what is not optimal about current practice and ways to improve, with particular focus on the phantom 4.

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**Rusty Lundberg** outlined issues, findings and recommendations from the LLW Forum's Disused Sources Working Group (DSWG) to the National Nuclear Security Administration/Global Threat Reduction Initiative (NNSA/GTRI) on the management and disposition of disused sources that pose a threat to national security.

**Renee Echols** gave an overview about current issues, technologies and matters of significance for brokers and processors of low-level radioactive waste including nuclear clean-up during challenging economic times.

### Questions and Answer

In response to a question regarding the potential disposition of Greater-than-Class C waste at the WCS facility, **Larry Camper** stated that the NRC would have to do an analysis of existing regulations and laws before taking a public position.

**Rusty Lundberg** responded to questions about additional stakeholder input on the DSWG recommendations and next steps.

**Larry Camper** responded to a request for additional information about the Part 61 rulemaking initiative and responded that it is expected to undergo significant staff revisions in response to Commission direction before being sent out for public comment.

**Leigh Ing** was asked to provide further explanation of the Import and Export regulations being considered by the Texas Compact Commission and noted that they would be meeting with industry officials in April.