

Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal

Perspective of a NC Radiation Protection
Commissioner

Allen M. Mabry, MS, CHP

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management in North Carolina

SUBMITTED TO THE

North Carolina General Assembly

BY THE

North Carolina Radiation Protection Commission

April 2008

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Executive Summary

- Closure of Barnwell to NC June 30, 2008
- Storage of Class B & C LLRW at a small number of facilities
- Storage of sealed source LLRW (regardless of waste class)
- We've been here before (1995-2000)
- No immediate threat to the public health and safety

Lessons Learned 1995 - 2000

- Waste disposal continued
- Class B & C storage
- Most generators were not equipped to store large volumes of waste
- Relied heavily on out of state processing and disposal facilities
- 6 licenses maintained for sole purpose of storage awaiting disposal

Energy Solutions - Clive Utah

- Class A waste only
- Not moving toward Class B and C
- No progress on adding sealed sources to license

NC Radiation Protection Section

- Notification to Licensees
- Annual LLRW survey requirement, about 70 licensees of 1,960
- 10 NRC licensees
- Four generators reported disposal of greater than Class A waste in 2006

2006 & 2007 Surveys

- <1% of disposal volume from NC went to Barnwell
- >99% of disposal activity from NC went to Barnwell

2006 & 2007 Surveys

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
B & C from NC to Barnwell	1,500 ft ³ 96,500 Ci	523 ft ³ 4,8074 Ci
B & C storage in NC	58 ft ³ 2 Ci	465 ft ³ 283 Ci

NRC Assessment (SECY-07-0180)

- LLRW regulations fully protect the health safety of workers and the public
- Opportunities for better risk-informing the LLRW regulatory framework
- Improve the effectiveness of LLRW management regulation

GAO Assessment (GAO-08-813T)

- Barnwell accepted 99% of the nations Class B & C wastes prior to June 2008
- Class A waste not a problem
- Waiting to see what happens in Texas
- Compact system is a failure

references

- <http://ncradiation.net/documents/2008LLRW>
- <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collectic>
- <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07221.pdf>
- <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08813t.pdf>