

**SOUTHEAST COMPACT COMMISSION
POLICY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF
LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE
(JUNE 2017)**

The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act of 1980 and the Amendments Act of 1985 (the Act) give the states responsibility for the disposal of their qualifying low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) and encourages the states to enter into compacts that allow them to share this responsibility.

The Southeast Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Compact (Southeast Compact) was created by legislation in each of the party states in 1983 and was ratified by Congress in 1985 with the passage of the Act. Party states currently include Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia. Under the Act, each party state is responsible for providing for the availability of capacity either within or outside the state for disposal of qualifying LLRW generated within its borders.

The mission of the Southeast Compact Commission (the Commission) is to ensure that adequate, reliable, and appropriate services are available to manage LLRW streams generated in the Southeast Compact Region and to promote and facilitate the maximum use of those services by low-level radioactive material licensees in the party states. The Commission participates in national organizations to identify and make known the best disposal options to its LLRW generators and treatment vendors.

Although the Act encourages the states to dispose of LLRW at a regional disposal facility, it is also flexible so as to allow states and compacts to fulfill their responsibility for the disposal of LLRW by using out-of-compact disposal facilities. The Commission works to ensure that regional generators have adequate LLRW disposal access either within or outside the compact region.

The Commission has the authority to place restrictions on the export of LLRW to processing and disposal facilities. Currently, the Commission allows its regional generators to ship LLRW for processing or disposal without export restrictions.

The Commission firmly maintains that permanent disposal of LLRW is preferable to either short- or long-term onsite storage and that the management of LLRW is handled most efficiently and economically on a regional basis.

The Commission believes that any effort to improve access to LLRW management facilities must support and uphold the rights of all interstate compacts to control the flow of LLRW into LLRW processing or disposal facilities within their borders. For each compact to succeed, all compact commissions need to cooperate and support each other.

The Southeast Compact provides the means for a cooperative, regional effort among the party states to support the economies of the member states, protect the health and safety of the citizens of the states, and equitably share the responsibilities of LLRW management.

The Commission holds in a reserve account funds that were accrued in the early 1990's enabling the Commission to actively pursue and promote its mandate to provide long-term access to treatment, storage, and disposal options for the safe and environmentally responsible management of LLRW streams generated in the region. These funds currently provide a continuing source of revenue to meet the operating costs of the Commission without incurring costs to party states or regional generators and without having to impose export fees on regional generators. Most importantly, these reserve funds can be used to help maintain and secure access to other disposal facilities and support the creation of a regional disposal facility when it is determined that such a facility is necessary to provide regional generators with continued access to permanent disposal of LLRW.

The Commission will continue to administer the organization in a professional, effective, and efficient manner, including prudently managing its funds to ensure that adequate resources will continue to be available to fulfill its mission.