

SOUTHEAST COMPACT COMMISSION

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR

LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Adopted October 1, 2003
Revised November 30, 2005
Revised June 27, 2008

States Working for Responsible Waste Management

MISSION

To ensure that adequate, reliable, and appropriate services are available, now and in the foreseeable future, such that low-level radioactive waste generated in the Southeast Region can be safely managed in an efficient, equitable, economical, and environmentally responsible manner in order that each party state may meet its responsibility for providing for the availability of capacity either within or outside the State for disposal of low-level radioactive waste generated within its borders (Article 1, PL 99-240).

GOALS

- Provide long-term access to treatment, storage, and disposal facilities for the safe, equitable, efficient, economical, and environmentally-responsible management of low-level radioactive waste generated in the Southeast Compact Region.
- Pursue a national policy for radioactive waste management.
- Uphold, protect, and defend the purpose and the powers of the Southeast Compact Commission.

GOAL #1: Provide long-term access to treatment, storage, and disposal facilities for the safe, equitable, efficient, economical, and environmentally-responsible management of low-level radioactive waste generated in the Southeast Compact Region.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Periodically review the waste management practices and services used by generators in the Southeast Compact region and determine the adequacy of existing disposal services to meet the current and future needs of regional generators.**

Strategies:

- A. Study the need for an annual inventory of the volumes and types of waste generated, stored, and disposed.
- B. Obtain projections for future waste generation from decommissioning of nuclear power plants and the proposed new reactors (new design).
- C. Actively seek input from individual generators and generator groups in the region regarding their waste management practices, their needs, and their views on the future direction the Commission should take to fulfill its responsibilities under the Compact Law.
- D. Provide feedback to generators as to whether suggestions were implemented and why/why not.

- 2. Preserve and promote access to treatment, storage, and disposal facilities to meet the needs of Southeast generators, minimizing the use of storage to the extent practicable.**

Strategies:

- A. Allow Southeast generators to export LLRW to out-of-region management facilities (*Commission Resolution, 8/22/95*).
- B. Enforce the "Interregional Access Agreement for Waste Management," the "Interregional Facility Access Agreement with the Central Midwest Commission," and the "Interstate Agreement for the Uniform Application of Manifesting Procedures," thus allowing other states and compacts open access to treatment and processing facilities in the Southeast.

C. Monitor:

- (1) the activities and policies of the Northwest Compact Committee and the states of Washington and Utah with regard to access to the Hanford and Clive sites;

- (2) the activities and policies of the Atlantic Compact Commission and South Carolina with regard to access to the Barnwell site; and
 - (3) the activities and policies of the Texas Compact Commission and Texas with regard to access to the proposed regional disposal site.
- D. Negotiate and arrange for economical long-term access to treatment, storage, and disposal facilities for Southeast generators where appropriate and feasible through the establishment of appropriate agreements or other instruments.
 - E. Monitor and support public and private efforts nationwide to develop additional services, as appropriate, including the use of a disposal facility managed by the federal government.
 - F. Actively support the low-level radioactive waste treatment facilities operating in the Southeast Compact Region.
- 3. Examine and promote new options for the management of low-level radioactive waste generated in the Southeast Compact region.**

Strategies:

- A. Request and promote federal rulemaking and other regulatory activities to allow safe alternatives to traditional disposal (risk assessment for irradiated components, on-site storage at nuclear plants, disposal at RCRA sites, clearance rules, etc.).
- B. Continuously maintain contacts with other states and regions and pursue as appropriate opportunities to negotiate economical long-term, reliable access to existing and developing facilities.
- C. Develop, maintain, and publicize the Richard S. Hodes, M.D. Honor Lecture Award program to encourage innovation in low-level radioactive waste management in the United States.
- D. Develop, consider, and promote alternative approaches to provide long-term access to treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.

GOAL #2: Pursue a national policy for radioactive waste management.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Monitor national developments related to the Compact process and act in an expeditious manner to bring about positive change.**

Strategies:

- A. Monitor and assess the efforts of states and compacts to develop regional facilities.
- B. Monitor and assess the efforts of private companies to develop or expand waste management services.

- 2. Work with other compacts and states to monitor and participate in national policy development.**

Strategies:

- A. Actively participate in national conferences, meetings of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum, Inc., and other events where national policy is debated and influenced.
- B. Monitor, review, and assess legal issues and actions arising out of national developments that may impact the Southeast Compact and act as appropriate to promote the interest of the Southeast Compact Region.
- C. Request that Congress establish a national policy in regard to ionizing radiation, including the management of radioactive waste.

- 3. Educate the public about national policy issues as needed and appropriate to pursue national policy and the Southeast Compact mission.**

Strategies:

- A. Inform the public, generators, and the news media about new issues as they arise.
- B. Provide information on the Commission web site about national policy issues, how low-level radioactive waste is managed and regulated, and the significance to society of proper waste management.
- C. Work with national organizations to support existing efforts in public education and outreach.

GOAL #3: Uphold, protect, and defend the purpose and the powers of the Southeast Compact Commission.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Work with legal counsel to bring the pending suit against North Carolina to a satisfactory conclusion.**
- 2. Enlist the support of regional compacts and others in the legal proceedings, as appropriate**
- 3. Publicize the outcome of the suit and its implications for regional and national policy.**
- 4. Prudently manage the Commission reserve funds such that adequate funds will be available for the Commission to fulfill its mission**

Strategies:

- A. Examine the Commission's existing funds and possible financial needs for future activities, and establish reserves for achieving long-term goals.
- B. Review the current *Southeast Compact Statement of Investment Objectives, Policy and Procedure* (adopted 4/24/93; amended 1/26/01), and revise as appropriate, to assure the prudent management of Commission funds.