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**SOUTHEAST COMPACT COMMISSION**

**FOR**

**LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

**2014 – 2023**

**REVISED JUNE 2020**

#### States Working for Responsible Waste Management

\*\* Please note that the Strategic Plan is a “living document” and as such, it is subject to change over time.

### VISION

### Low-level radioactive waste streams[[1]](#footnote-1) in our party states are managed appropriately in order to protect the environment and the health and safety of our citizens.

### MISSION

**To ensure that adequate, reliable, and appropriate services are available to manage low-level radioactive waste streams generated in the Southeast[[2]](#footnote-2) Compact Region and to promote and facilitate the maximum use of those services by the party states.**

**VALUES**

1. **Each state is responsible for ensuring access to available capacity either within or outside the state for disposal of low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) generated within its borders.**
2. **Management of LLRW is handled most efficiently on a regional basis.**
3. **Party states should work together in a cooperative, regional effort to manage LLRW.**
4. **The responsibilities of LLRW management should be shared equitably among the states.**
5. **Truth, honesty, and integrity are intrinsic to all Compact activities.**
6. **Party states must live up to their obligations based on Compact law.**
7. **The Commission is dedicated to providing quality services to generators, licensees, and the public.**
8. **The Commission recognizes that radioactive materials have beneficial uses to society.**
9. **The Commission understands and honors our legislative mandate (uphold, protect, defend).**
10. **Disposal of LLRW is preferable to storage.**
11. **Sufficient capacity should be provided either within or outside the compact region for proper management of LLRW generated in the region.**
12. **The Commission encourages minimizing the LLRW generated in the region.**
13. **The Commission promotes the protection of the health and safety of the region through responsible LLRW management.**
14. **Licensees/generators should have access to and be encouraged to use the best available waste management technologies and practices to minimize the volumes of waste requiring disposal.**
15. **For each compact to succeed, all compact commissions need to cooperate and support each other.**

**GOALS**

1. Provide long-term access to treatment, storage, disposal, and other options for the safe and environmentally responsible management of LLRW streams generated in the Southeast Compact Region, as well as LLRW imported into the region.

2. Actively participate in and lead national efforts to promote safe and economical management of radioactive materials and LLRW.

3. Administer the Commission in a professional, effective, and efficient manner.

4. Prudently manage the Commission’s funds to ensure that adequate resources will be available for the Commission to fulfill its mission.

GOAL #1: Provide long-term access to treatment, storage, disposal, and other options for the safe and environmentally responsible management of LLRW streams generated in the Southeast Compact Region, as well as LLRW imported into the region.

**OBJECTIVES:**

**1. Review the waste management practices and services available to and used by licensees in the Southeast Compact Region to determine the adequacy of existing disposal services to meet the current and future needs of regional licensees.**

Actions:

A. By January 1, 2015, conduct a pilot study of waste generators in Tennessee and brokers and processors in Tennessee to determine:

• Which waste streams, if any, may not have a disposal pathway; and

• What impediments exist to the use of management and disposal services for some or all waste streams. (Completed October 2015)

B. By June 1, 2016, repeat the actions of the pilot study in the other five Southeast Compact states, if this is deemed to be appropriate and necessary. (Deemed Unnecessary October 2015)

C. At least once every 3 years, staff shall solicit input from individual generators and generator groupsin the region regarding their waste management practices, their needs, and problems they are experiencing in obtaining disposal services. (Next update due annual meeting 2022.)

D. Staff shall monitor projections for future waste generation from decommissioning of nuclear power plants and the proposed new reactors (new design).

**2. Actively work to preserve and promote access to treatment and disposal facilities to meet the needs of Southeast licensees.**

Actions:

A. The Commission shall continue its policy to allow Southeast generators to export LLRW to out-of-region management facilities (*Commission Resolution, 8/22/95).*

B. Commissioners and staff will continue to 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. At least once per year, a representative of the Commission shall provide updates to commissioners on the status of access to disposal sites and include the status updates on the Commission website, when appropriate:

(1) The activities and policies of the Northwest Interstate Compact 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 Texas Compact disposal site.

D. Where appropriate and feasible, facilitate economical long-term access to treatment, storage, and disposal facilities for Southeast licensees through the establishment of appropriate agreements or other instruments.

E. Monitor issues that could negatively impact the operation of the LLRW treatment facilities operating in the Southeast Compact Region and work with treatment facility operators and others to advocate for the resolution of these issues.

**3. Support efforts to create and/or promote new options for the management of LLRW generated in the Southeast Compact Region.**

Actions:

A. Commissioners and staff shall request and promote federal rulemaking, legislation, 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 for solid waste landfills, Branch Technical Position on Concentration Averaging, etc.).

B. Commissioners and staff shall continuously maintain contacts with other states and regions and pursue, as appropriate, opportunities to facilitate economical long-term, reliable access to existing and developing facilities.

C. Annually, develop, maintain, and publicize the Richard S. Hodes, M.D. Honor Lecture Award program to encourage innovation in LLRW management in the United States by:

(1) Distributing information regarding the award and actively solicit quality nominations for the awards;

(2) Recruiting a panel of commissioners and assist in the review of the nominations and the selection of award recipient;

(3) Coordinating publicity for and presentation of the awards;

(4) Working closely with award recipient in preparation of submissions to the Waste Management Symposium;

(5) Assisting the Commission Chairman or other designated Commission representatives in preparing for the actual presentation of the award at the Waste Management Symposium;

(6) Attending the Waste Management Conference to ensure that all logistical matters related to the award presentation run efficiently; and

(7) Serving as an “Organizer” of the Conference session that includes the presentation of the award and the distinguished lecture presented by the award recipient.

D. Commissioners and staff shall work with the U.S. Department of Energy and other organizations to develop viable options for the management and disposal of disused sealed sources.

1. The Executive Director will continue to monitor the deliberations of the Disused Sealed Source Working Group of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum, Inc. and keep Commissioners informed of any recommendations for improved management of sealed sources and disused sealed sources.

**4. Promote and facilitate the utilization of LLRW management services and facilities by licensees in the Southeast Compact Region.**

Actions:

A. Continue to support and publicize the availability of the *National* *Directory of* *Brokers and Processors*.

B. Based on the findings of the pilot study in Tennessee and other input obtained from waste generators, work to eliminate the obstacles to management and disposal experienced by regional generators (for example, training about packaging, transportation, and obtaining necessary approvals for disposal access). (Pilot Study Completed October 2015)

GOAL #2: Actively participate in and lead national efforts to promote safe and economical management of radioactive materials and LLRW.

**OBJECTIVES:**

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

Actions:

1. Commissioners and staff shall request and promote federal rulemaking, legislation, and other regulatory activities to promote safe and economical management of radioactive materials and LLRW (i.e., Very Low-Level Radioactive Waste disposal and responsible NORM limits).
2. Commissioners and staff shall monitor rulemaking activities of federal agencies and any federal legislative activities through meeting attendance, webcast participation, and review of news releases, direct contacts via phone and emails, etc., and report their findings to the Commission and provide comments as appropriate.

C. Commissioners and staff shall participate at least four times per year in national conferences, meetings of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum, Inc., and other events where national policy is debated and influenced.

D. Staff shall monitor, review, and assess legal issues and actions arising out of federal and state developments that may impact the Southeast Compact and act as appropriate to promote the interest of the Southeast Compact Region.

2. As needed and appropriate, educate the public about LLRW policy issues in support of

the Southeast Compact’s mission.

Actions:

A. Inform the public, generators, and the news media about new issues as they arise, and advocate the position of the Commission on these issues.

B. Review and update as needed the information provided on the Commission website about national policy issues, how LLRW is managed and regulated, and the significance to society of proper waste management.

C. Identify and maintain state, regional, and national media contacts.

D. Staff and officers shall serve as primary spokespersons with the media and public.

E. Be open and accessible to the news media.

**3. As needed and appropriate,** **staff shall inform and educate the Commission about national policy issues.**

Actions:

1. Gather information and research issues pertinent to Commission interests.
2. Inform the Commission about new issues as they arise and provide updates whenever significant changes/developments occur.
3. Arrange for one or more presentations on national policy issues to be provided to the Commission at Commission meetings.
4. Be accessible to the Commission to respond to inquiries regarding national policy issues.

**4. Maintain membership in the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Forum, Inc. (Forum) and provide direct and indirect support to the Forum.**

Actions:

1. Continue to provide direct financial support to the Forum through payment of the annual membership fee as a “Compact” member.
2. Encourage Commissioners and staff members to attend each of the two Forum meetings held each year within the constraints of the Commission’s annual operating budget.
3. Provide in-kind support to the Forum by allowing and encouraging commissioners and staff to serve as officers and/or Executive Committee members of the Forum.

D. Provide in-kind support to the Forum by allowing and encouraging commissioners and by providing administrative assistance, and other assistance as needed.

E. Periodically volunteer to plan for and host a LLW Forum meeting.

GOAL #3: Administer the Commission in a professional, effective, and efficient manner.

**OBJECTIVES:**

**As delegated by the Commission, the Executive Director shall:**

1. **Hire and discharge personnel as may be necessary for the performance of the Commission’s functions.**
2. **Enter into agreements for other professional services and consultants, not to exceed $10,000, recommend to the Commission the approval of contracts for professional services exceeding $10,000, and manage the work conducted under these contracts.**
3. Manage Commission staff in accordance with the Commission Personnel Policies.
4. **Establish such office rules of procedure as may be necessary for the orderly transaction of daily business.**
5. **Implement all policies and resolutions adopted by the Commission.**
6. **Comply with tax and labor laws.**
7. **Manage the employee payroll and benefits.**
8. **Assure that the Commission and staff are adequately insured.**
9. **Maintain a system of accounts and audit; approve and pay bills and obligations of the Commission.**
10. **Annually coordinate an audit of the Commission accounts and incorporate the audit report into the development of the Annual Report.**
11. **Reimburse Commissioners and staff for travel expenses in accordance with the Commission travel policies.**
12. Plan, prepare for, and staff Commission meetings in accordance with the ByLaws.
13. Plan, prepare for, and staff as many meetings of standing and ad hoc committees as necessary to conduct the business of the Commission
14. Maintain up-to-date files of Commission correspondence, meetings, and other materials in accordance with the Document Retention Policy adopted in March 2011.
15. Maintain administrative support for the work of the Commission.
16. Perform other duties specifically delegated by the Commission.
17. **Analyze and research issues raised by Commissioners and develop recommendations for consideration by committees and the Commission.**
18. **Develop presentations and/or white papers to bring issues to the attention of the Commission for study and possible action.**
19. **Annually conduct a meeting of officers and committee chairs to review progress and plan future activities of the Commission.**
20. **Annually review and update as necessary a Strategic Plan.**
21. **Develop detailed action plans for implementing objectives and actions within the Strategic Plan and supervise their implementation.**
22. **Track progress on implementation of the Strategic Plan and report to the Commission on the progress of such work.**
23. **Respond to requests from Commissioners, generators, news media, and others for information, an explanation of issues, and briefings about the work of the Commission.**
24. **Assist Commissioners with the development of briefings of officials within their states, speeches, and Power Point presentations, and other support as needed.**
25. **Develop and deliver presentations to outside organizations.**
26. **Maintain and support the on-line *National* *Directory of Brokers and Processors*.**
27. **Obtain continuing education, as needed, to effectively implement the work of the Commission.**

GOAL #4: Prudently manage the Commission’s funds to ensure that adequate resources will be available for the Commission to fulfill its mission.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Preserve the principal funds of the Commission.

Actions:

1. At least twice annually, staff will examine the Commission's existing funds and possible financial needs for future activities, and recommend to the Commission the establishment of additional reserves for achieving long-term goals as needed.
2. The Finance Committee will maintain a policy statement defining the need for and the proper uses of the Commission’s funds.
3. **Manage the investment of Commission funds.**

Actions:

1. Staff will monitor the activity in the investment accounts by reviewing the email notifications from the financial advisors on maturities, interest and other payments, reviewing monthly statements from the financial advisors, and reconciling those statements with the monthly accounting records of the Commission.
2. When Commission investments are called or mature, staff will consult with the investment advisors to determine the best possible strategy for reinvestment of those funds in those instruments allowed under the then current *Southeast Compact Statement of Investment Objectives* so as to assure the prudent management of Commission funds.
3. At least quarterly, staff will obtain revenue projections from the financial advisor(s), discuss those projections with the financial advisors, and report to the Commission officers and the chairs of the Finance and Administrative Committees the projections, discussions, and implications of the projections with respect to the Commission vision and mission.
4. Annually the staff, the Administrative Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Commission will review the current *Southeast Compact Statement of Investment Objectives* and revise, as appropriate, to assure the prudent management of Commission funds.
5. Annually, invite the financial advisor(s) to present a financial status report at a Commission meeting.
6. **Develop and manage the budget.**

Actions:

1. The Finance Committee should receive input from all Commission members in order to prepare the annual Fiscal Year budget by June of each year to carry out the mission of the upcoming year. The Finance Committee will make every effort to involve all Commissioners in the budget preparation to insure transparency in the process.
2. The Administrative Committee, after consultation with the Executive Director and Finance Committee, shall submit a proposed annual budget for adoption, or amendment and adoption, to the Commission annually.

C. Staff will review the monthly financial statements to ensure that the Commission expenditures are within the approved annual budgeted amounts.

D. Staff will report at least once a quarter to the Commission officers and Chairs of the Administrative and Finance Committees on the status of Commission expenditures as compared to the approved annual budget and provide them with the most recent quarterly financial reports prepared by the independent accountant.

E. Staff shall work with the Treasurer to track and adjust budget line items, as needed.

1. Throughout this document, “low-level radioactive waste” means “radioactive waste not classified as high-level radioactive waste, transuranic waste, spent nuclear fuel, or by-product material as defined in Section 11e, (2) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, or as may be further defined by Federal law or regulation,” as defined in the statute which established the Southeast Compact Commission. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Throughout this document, “Southeast” means “Southeast Compact Region.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)