A Perspective on Hot Topics & Emerging Issues in Commercial LLRW Management

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Hot Topics

- Texas and Vermont Political Climates
- Recent Rulemaking
- TCC Funding
- Revised Waste Volume Estimates
Political Climates

• All states struggling for funding
  – Compact Commission funding not assured

• New Vermont Governor
  – Appointed two new Commissioners: Richard Saudek and Peter Bradford

• Large projected deficits drawing significant scrutiny to all programs
Recent Rulemaking

• 31 TAC 675, Subchapter B, “Exportation and Importation of Waste”
  – §675.21, “Exportation of Waste to a Non-Party State for Disposal”
  – §675.22, “Exportation of Waste to a Non-Party State for Management or Processing and Return to the Party States for Management or for Disposal in the Compact Facility” and
  – §675.23, “Importation of Waste from a Non-Compact Generator for Disposal”

• The result of 18 months of debate, over 7000 comments, 3 public hearings and 5 public meetings.
TCC Funding

• Critical to ensure proper operation and execution of statutory duties
• Funding outlook
• New rule allows TCC to cover some administrative costs
• Current operations at minimum level
Revised Waste Volume Estimates

- Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority (TLLRWDA) Waste Volume Survey
  - Started circa 1987
  - Revised circa 1993-4, 50% participation in survey
  - Update initiated in 1998
    - Not completed due to agency
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
  Completed update in 2000
- June 2009, major generators provided projections that show significant reductions in anticipated disposal volumes.
Revised Waste Volume Estimates

• 2000 vs 2009 estimated disposal volume comparisons show
  – Texas utilities have reduced
    • Disposal volume estimates by ≈ 64%
    • Disposal activity estimates by ≈ 50%
  – Texas non-utility generators reduced
    • Volume by ≈ 7%
    • Activity by ≈ 57%
  – VT utility
    • Increased volume estimates by 220%
    • Decrease activity estimates by 83%
• Conclusion: A completely updated study is needed.
Emerging Issues

• Down blending
  – Potential solution for those in possession of B & C
  – Problematic for many state and federal policy makers
  – To many, turns 50+ yr policy of ALARA and waste minimization on its head

• TN Processing
  – Loss of waste ownership a concern for those who seek to ensure that foreign waste is not imported into a Compact.

• Waste Volume Trends (EPRI, L. Edwards)
  – Significant overestimate of utility waste volumes
  – Non-utility waste just as significant as utility waste
Emerging Issues, Cont.

• Depleted Uranium
• Commercial Transuranic Waste >100 nCi/g
• GTCC and “GTCC-like” Orphan Waste
• Sealed Source Storage and Security
• NORM Characterization and Disposal
• Gen IV Waste Processing and Minimization
QUESTIONS?