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Transfer of Very Low-Level Waste to Exempt Persons for Disposal

**Comment On:** NRC-2020-0065-0001

Transfer of Very Low-Level Waste to Exempt Persons for Disposal

**Document:** NRC-2020-0065-DRAFT-0070

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## General Comment

I am adamantly opposed to any change in the way that nuclear waste is treated.

First of all, I have not forgotten that last year this administration re-classified what constitutes low level, from what was once high level. The Hanford Site in Washington state, the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, and the Idaho National Laboratory all contain millions of gallons of sludge and other waste following decades of use by the DOE, which reprocessed nuclear rods at the sites when the department was extracting plutonium for hydrogen bombs.

The DOE for decades classified any material that was created during reprocessing as high-level waste, but it will now label the sludge at the three sites as safe due to its level of radioactivity.

Secondly - by allowing shallow burial in municipal sites by people who have not been trained in how nuclear waste should be handled is jeopardizing not only the citizens who have these jobs, but everyone in the surrounding area. If there were a fire or tornado, or earthquake or flood in the area, that waste could become airborne or get in the water and contaminate the area for miles around.

Thirdly - Transport of this waste stream through our communities should be prevented. How is going to be moved? It doesn't even sound like you know per section: (2) Transboundary transfer of VLLW associated with the approved disposal actions is an important consideration. What issues associated with transboundary transfer of VLLW should be considered with this interpretive rule?

It is UNACCEPTABLE that this is trying to be passed during a crisis because you think no one is watching!