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George H. Smith, Field Operation Support Branch  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement, Headquarters

## BURIALS UNDER 20.304

Burial of radioactive waste in soil as authorized by 10 CFR 20.304 is rather limited in Region V. We were able to recall only two licensees using this method over the past few years.

1. Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association, Honolulu, Hawaii vacated a facility in 1975. In the process of decontamination of the facility, about 10 millicuries of radioactive material (mostly Cs-137) were disposed by burial in soil. This was a one-time situation and has been completed.
2. University of Alaska, College, Alaska (near Fairbanks) routinely buries each year one 55-gallon drum containing 5 to 10 millicuries of radioactive waste. This is a mixture of isotopes, predominantly C-14 and H-3, from their broad licensed program. They expect to continue this type of disposal.

We have no information on the extent of such disposals by Agreement State licensees, but we suspect it may be substantial. It used to be relatively common for academic institutions to dispose of waste in this manner, or under a similar less restrictive authorization in their license. Most of these academic institutions are now operating under Agreement State jurisdiction.

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