

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Office of Solid Waste



Environmental Fact Sheet

LOW-LEVEL MIXED WASTE CONDITIONALLY EXEMPT FROM HAZARDOUS WASTE REGULATION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reducing regulatory burdens by exempting qualified mixed-waste generators from certain hazardous waste management requirements.

Background

Mixed waste is hazardous waste containing radioactive material. This waste is regulated by both the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Atomic Energy Act. The Department of Energy or the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulate the radiological components of the waste.

Summary

EPA is providing increased flexibility to facilities for managing low-level mixed waste (LLMW) and naturally occurring and/or accelerator-produced radioactive material (NARM) containing hazardous waste. The Agency is exempting low-level mixed waste from RCRA storage and treatment requirements as long as the waste is generated under a single NRC license, meets the conditions specified, and is stored and treated in a tank or container. In addition, LLMW and NARM, which meet applicable treatment standards, may be conditionally exempt from RCRA transportation and disposal requirements. This waste may be disposed of at low-level radioactive waste disposal facilities which are licensed by NRC. The rule also provides additional flexibility for manifesting these wastes when they are destined for disposal at such facilities. Although mixed waste meeting the applicable conditions is exempt from certain RCRA requirements, it must still be managed as radioactive waste according to NRC regulations. Note that DOE disposal facilities are not eligible to accept the exempt waste since they are not subject to NRC regulation.

For More Information

The *Federal Register* notice, this fact sheet, and related documents are available on the Internet at <<http://www.epa.gov/radiation/mixed-waste>>. For additional information, or to order paper copies of any documents, call the RCRA Call Center. Callers within the Washington Metropolitan Area please dial 703-412-9810 or TDD

703-412-3323 (hearing impaired). Long-distance callers please call 1-800-424-9346 or TDD 1-800-553-7672. The RCRA Call Center operates weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Address written requests to: RCRA-Docket@epa.gov or RCRA Information Center (5305W), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460-0001.