

Radwaste Solutions

Volume 19, Number 3
July–August 2012



What's the deal with the car? See article beginning on page 46 to learn more.

Features

Cover Stories—Low-Level Waste

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management in the United States: What Have We Wrought?

The Richard S. Hodes, M.D., Honor Lecture. Presented February 27, 2012, at Waste Management 2012, held February 26–March 1, 2012, in Phoenix, Ariz.

Advanced Approaches to Reduce Waste, Slash Costs

Implementing proven waste reduction practices captured in EPRI guidelines can help reduce the generation and volume of Class B/C low-level wastes, leading to lower costs for disposal and onsite storage.

Disposition of the West Valley Demonstration Project Vitrification Melter

The DOE developed a waste-incidental-to-reprocessing evaluation for the West Valley Demonstration Project vitrification melter and in February 2012 determined that this equipment was not high-level waste and could be disposed of as low-level waste.

Reversibility and Retrievalability

International Retrievalability Scale for Waste in Geological Disposal

The issue of reversibility and retrievalability of a geologic repository comes from political and social demand and is, in many cases, codified in laws and government requirements.

Repositories with Retrievalable Spent Nuclear Fuel: Four Options, Four Geologies

Until we can determine for certain whether spent nuclear fuel is a waste or a resource, it may be wise to design spent fuel repositories for retrievalability.

Other Features

Policy Issues Associated with Deep-Borehole HLW Disposal

Like the recent Blue Ribbon Commission, the authors conclude that boreholes deserve another look as an alternative approach to disposition of nuclear reactor high-level waste.

Experts Test Agencies' Skills at Radiological Detection and Control

In exercises for state and local agencies, scenarios required participants to respond to a suspicious package in a mail room, prescreen the venue for a political rally, screen ticket-holders coming to a concert, and respond to a suspicious abandoned vehicle.

Down, ROVer, Down

Decommissioning one of the oldest nuclear storage ponds at Sellafield has reached new depths in risk reduction thanks to the use of remotely operated vehicles.

State of New York, et al., Petitioners, v. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and United States of America, Respondents

The unanimous opinion of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on the NRC's Waste Confidence Decision.

Perspective

Are Deep Geologic Repositories Really Necessary?

An examination of the basic flaws in the recommendations for disposal of high-level waste in geologic repositories.

Departments

14	Editor's Note	4
	Comments on this issue	
17	Headlines	6
	Industry news	
	Radwaste Solutions	
	Subscription Information	45
20	Index to Advertisers	67
	Moving Up	68
	People in the news	
	It's Business	69
	Contracts, business news, etc.	
30	Calendar	71
	Meetings of interest	

On the Cover:

Operators for Waste Control Specialists lower the inaugural drum of low-level radioactive waste into a concrete cask for permanent disposal at the Texas Compact Facility in Andrews County, Texas. A news story on page 7 covers the opening and first disposal of the compact disposal facility. In addition, articles in this issue look at the successes and failures of the 1980 Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act, at reducing the generation and volumes of Class B/C waste at nuclear power plants, and at the DOE's efforts to qualify the West Valley Demonstration Project vitrification melter for disposal as low-level waste.

Next Issue:

61	Environmental Remediation
----	------------------------------