

## SCATR Program for Disposition of Unwanted Sources

*Russ Meyer, CHP*

The Source Collection and Threat Reduction (SCATR) Program occupies a small corner of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative of the National Nuclear Security Administration. SCATR has been in operation since 2007. Its primary purpose continues to be the reduction via disposal of the number of unwanted, discrete, radioactive sources that have commercial disposal options in the United States.

As an unintended consequence of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Act of 1985, only 14 states have access to low-level radioactive waste disposal sites for class B and C low-level radioactive waste. These states define the niche in which SCATR works. Federal and state laws allow the Northwest Compact low-level radioactive waste site to receive  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  from out of compact; therefore, the SCATR program also includes that isotope within its scope.

The closing of the Barnwell site to out-of-compact waste provided the opportunity for the initiation of the SCATR Program. The Off-Site Recovery Project (OSRP) was tasked with the development of the program to encourage and coordinate a large collection effort to assist states in disposing of as much low-level radioactive waste as could be disposed prior to the closure of the Barnwell site to all out-of-compact waste. In addition to facilitation of the collection and disposal of sources, finan-

cial assistance was offered through cost sharing. As the program would involve multiple states, the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) was provided a grant to administer the project with guidance from its E-34 Committee for Unwanted Radioactive Materials. The state of Florida agreed to conduct a pilot project for the collection.

Florida provided facilities and staff to receive and catalog the waste from numerous participants. The project collected a total of 2,569 sources. This was nearly twice the number of sources that were indicated to be unwanted on the OSRP's database. These sources were subsequently transferred to a broker for packaging and disposal at the Barnwell site. Lessons learned from the Florida project were that the project consumed a tremendous amount of resources of the Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control. Also, other states indicated that they did not possess the manpower to perform a task of that magnitude and their state's government contracting rules were not amenable to the task of disposing of low-level radioactive waste.

A new paradigm began to develop as the project continued after the Florida pilot. The program still allows for radiation control agencies, users' groups or, in some cases, manufacturers to organize a collection effort in coordination with the CRCPD. Since the Florida project,

however, the CRCPD, with the assistance of the states involved, has organized and provided financial assistance in all subsequent collection efforts.

Collection has continued at a reduced pace as it has been confined to the 14 "sited" states for the most part. To date, the SCATR Program has collected a total of 4,414 sources, including those collected in the pilot program. On occasion,  $^{226}\text{Ra}$  sources of significant activity are still being collected.

Opportunities for facilities in "un-sited" states to dispose of sealed sources may open in the near future. In anticipation of these opportunities, OSRP and CRCPD are encouraging persons who have unwanted sources, low-level radioactive waste and  $^{226}\text{Ra}$ , to register those sources with OSRP now. Registration is a prerequisite for participation in the SCATR Program. The program continues to provide encouragement by facilitating the disposal of sources and, when necessary, providing opportunities for cost sharing.

Facilities in both "sited" and "un-sited" states can register unwanted discrete sources with OSRP at the following websites—downloadable form: <http://osrp.lanl.gov/SCATRTemplate.xls> and online entry form: <http://osrp.lanl.gov/PickUpSources.aspx>. If you have questions, please contact Russ Meyer, 512-761-3822 or email [rmeyer@crcpd.org](mailto:rmeyer@crcpd.org).

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