

# Removing Disused Radioactive Sources

## Eliminating Risk

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration's **Office of Radiological Security (ORS)** collaborates with U.S. industry, law enforcement, and government entities to prevent adversaries from acquiring high-activity radioactive materials for malicious purposes. ORS connects businesses and government entities with the services provided by the Off-Site Source Recovery Program (OSRP) and Source Collection and Threat Reduction (SCATR) initiatives. Both programs focus on the safe removal of disused radioactive sources, effectively addressing the risks posed by excess, unwanted, abandoned, or orphaned radioactive sealed sources that threaten national security, public health, and safety.

## Off-Site Source Recovery Program

Since its inception in 1997, OSRP has recovered over 49,000 radioactive sealed sources amounting to more than 1.6 million curies of material from a diverse range of institutions, including over 1,800 universities, hospitals, blood banks, industrial facilities, and government facilities. In accordance with all regulatory requirements, **OSRP operates as a national security program dedicated to the safe management and security disposition of radioactive materials**, including:

- ★ Identification of sealed sources
- ★ Safe packaging and transportation
- ★ Secure storage and final disposition
- ★ Awareness training to enhance the security of radioactive sources in use, storage, and transportation

The prioritization of OSRP recoveries is based on several factors, including the total activity level at each location. For sources that do not meet recovery criteria, registration is still available, and OSRP can assist in identifying alternative disposal solutions. Additionally, sources currently in use may be registered for future recovery consideration.

## Source Collection and Threat Reduction

The SCATR program was established by the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) in collaboration with ORS. **The SCATR program aims to collect stored unused sources that could potentially be exploited for malicious purposes.** The SCATR program is specifically designed for sources that have commercial disposal options available. This program is limited to sealed sources and does not include non-commercially disposable transuranic isotopes, which can



*Recovered sources are prepared, packaged, and transported to authorized U.S. disposal facilities in compliance with applicable regulations*

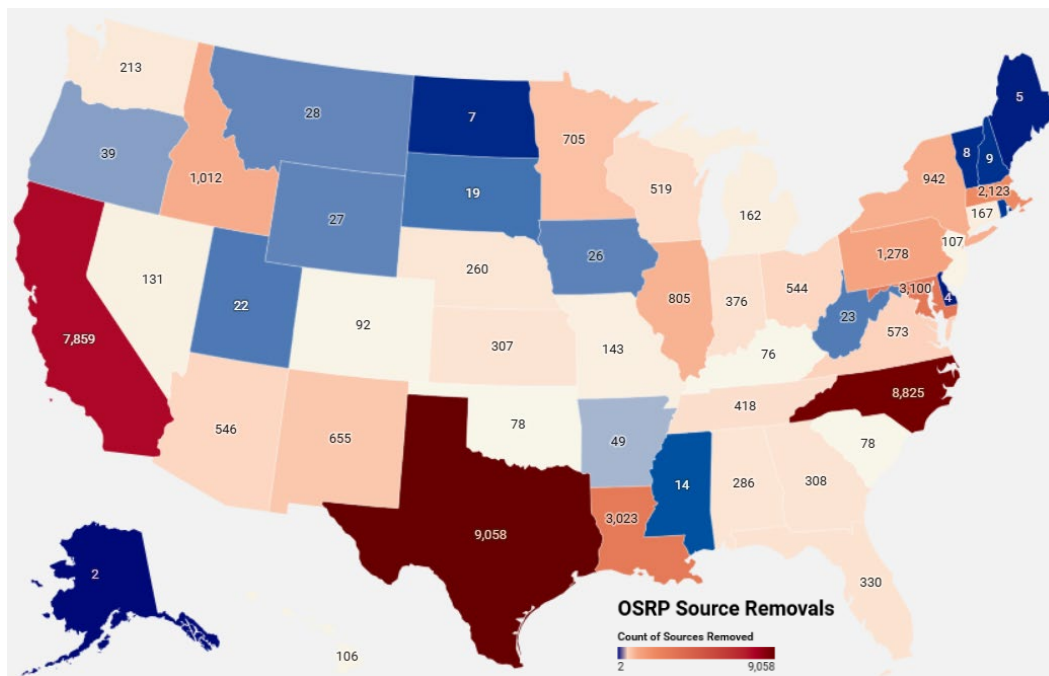
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be directly recovered by OSRP. Additionally, sources that have already undergone ten half-lives should not be registered for the SCATR program. For more information, please visit the [CRCPD SCATR website](#).

## Sources Recovered Nationwide

Together, OSRP and SCATR recover approximately 1,000 sources annually from domestic locations for secure final disposal.



## Registering for Recovery Services

Licensees in possession of radioactive sealed sources are encouraged to register all sources with OSRP for recovery consideration. To initiate the registration process, please visit the OSRP website at <http://osrp.lanl.gov> and follow the online instructions. For inquiries regarding source registration, please contact the OSRP team via email at [osrp@lanl.gov](mailto:osrp@lanl.gov) or by calling toll-free **877-676-1749**.

*\*Registration with OSRP does not guarantee recovery or disposition of all radioactive materials. If recovery occurs, there is no charge.*

For more information, please contact [ORSinfo@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:ORSinfo@nnsa.doe.gov).