



HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

“Specialists in Radiation Safety”

March 8, 2007

The Honorable Jim DeMint
United States Senate
Room 340
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Brian Dodd, Ph.D.

President
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Subject: South Carolina and National Low-Level Radioactive Waste
Disposal Policy

Dear Senator DeMint:

On February 15, South Carolina House Bill H.3545 was introduced in the House Chamber of the South Carolina General Assembly for the purpose of amending South Carolina laws to authorize the importation of non-regional radioactive waste into the state within an established total volume limit for fiscal years 2008 through 2023. It also directs the South Carolina Commissioners to the Atlantic Compact Commission to vote in a manner for the Commission to allow importation of non-regional waste through 2023.

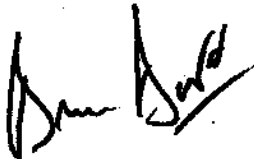
The Health Physics Society (HPS), an independent non-profit scientific society of radiation science and safety professionals, has been advocating for improvements in disposal of radioactive waste for over 10 years. The most recent position statement from the Society on low-level radioactive waste disposal was issued in September 2005 (http://hps.org/documents/lowlevelwaste_ps009-2.pdf) along with a Background Information document (http://hps.org/documents/lowlevelwaste_background_bi009-0.pdf). One of the Society's major concerns has been the anticipated closure of the Barnwell disposal facility to waste from states not in the Atlantic Compact at the end of fiscal year 2008, as currently directed by South Carolina law. Of greatest concern is the fact that Barnwell is the only disposal facility available to the 33 non-compact states in the country for disposal of the higher activity classes of radioactive waste (known as Class B and C waste). While the HPS understands and appreciates a state's position that no one state should bear the brunt of other state's, or the nation's inaction to provide disposal facilities for this radioactive waste, *it is a matter of national safety and security that all radioactive waste generated in the United States have a safe and proper disposal pathway.*

The extension of the ability for all non-compact states to have access to the Barnwell, South Carolina facility through 2023 would provide a safe and proper disposal pathway for the immediate future while Congress continues to work for a comprehensive national radioactive waste disposal policy and capability.

In addition to letting you know about our Society's concern, I would like to ask you to consider being involved in this issue as the Congress works towards a long term solution along the lines suggested in the HPS' position statement.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Be assured that the HPS will help you in any way possible in furtherance of a sound national policy and our mission to have excellence in the science and practice of radiation safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Dodd", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Dodd, Ph.D.