

## Opportunity to Dispose of Unwanted Radioactive Sources

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The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) and the Department of Energy have initiated a rare opportunity for radioactive material licensees to have financial assistance in properly disposing of unwanted sealed sources. The program is entitled "Source Collection and Threat Reduction" or "SCATR." **The AAPM endorses the SCATR program and encourages AAPM members to have their licensees register and take advantage of this opportunity.**

The Department of Energy recognizes that the availability of disposal of such sources is limited and expensive. The radioactive sources do not need to meet any activity threshold to be registered for disposal. Examples of therapy or nuclear medicine sealed sources that would be eligible for the SCATR program include medical brachytherapy sources (cesium 137 and radium 226), eye applicators, low activity sources that exceed the NRC 120-day half-life limit for decay-in-storage, long half-life industrial sources and calibration sources.

With the closure of the Barnwell, low-level radioactive waste disposal site, scheduled for next June, disposal options may be limited in the future. To participate in this program, the licensees will need to register the unused sources with the Department of Energy Offsite Source Recovery Project at <http://osrp.lanl.gov/CRCPDSCATR.shtml> by **October 20 2007**. Registration is an absolute requirement to have this opportunity. Once the inventory of sources has been identified, the CRCPD will coordinate for a collection site and transfer of ownership for the purposes of disposal.

The licensee will be required to package and arrange transportation to the collection site. If DOT transportation containers are needed they can be provided to the licensee. Information on this will be provided when you are notified of the collection time.

- The **SCATR Program** will identify, register, and coordinate disposition of discrete radioactive material
  - Broader in scope than the existing CRCPD National Orphan Radioactive Material Disposition Program and the Off-Site Source Recovery Project (OSRP);
  - Funded through the U.S. Department of Energy;
  - Disposition may be adoption by another person, acceptance by a manufacturer, or disposal as radioactive waste.
  
- **Materials eligible** for CRCPD/SCATR funding of disposition:
  - Discrete radioactive material, whether naturally occurring, or accelerator or reactor produced that is not already covered under the OSRP;
  - Sources licensed by a State or U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, but not on federal property (specific or general license);
  - Examples include brachytherapy sources and unused gauge sources;
  - Unused sources in long-term storage with no foreseeable future use; and
  - Sources registered with OSRP.
  
- **What's new about SCATR?**
  - Sources are not "orphan" sources;
  - Sources do not meet OSRP criteria; and
  - SCATR finally provides a financial incentive for dispositioning unwanted sources.

- **Registration** of candidate materials:  
DOE/OSRP has established registration of SCATR material on their web site  
**<http://osrp.lanl.gov/CRCPDSCATR.shtml>**
- **Reimbursement** for disposition of unwanted radioactive sources will be provided under contract with commercial brokers or manufacturers or through agreements with States.