

# Capacity of the Radioactive Waste Compact Site:

## Texas and Vermont waste alone exceeds licensed capacity – without any Out-of-Compact imports

Compact site licensed for 2.3 million cubic feet and 3.89 million curies of radioactive waste.

Nuclear reactors that will need to be decommissioned – 4 in Texas, 1 in Vermont  
Now stored onsite at South Texas Project – 2 reactor heads and 8 steam generators  
Now stored onsite at Comanche Peak – 1 reactor head and 4 steam generators  
Vermont Yankee – may need decommissioning soon, may have more waste than originally anticipated due to pipes that leaked tritium

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Study from 2000 - Texas Compact Low-Level Radioactive Waste Generation Trends and Management Alternatives Study, Chart on Page 4-107

**Total Texas and Vermont waste – 2,543,000 cubic feet  
Exceeds license by 233,000 cubic feet**

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Texas Low-Level Waste Disposal Compact Commission: Waste Disposal Volume Estimate

The Commission estimates that Texas will dispose of Five Million (5,000,000) Cubic Feet of Low Level Radioactive Waste at a Compact disposal site to be established in Texas during the period from 1995 - 2045. Source Note: The provisions of this §675.1 adopted to be effective September 20, 2009, 34 TexReg 6339 (<http://www.tllrwddc.org/about.html>)

Vermont is authorized 20% of Texas' volume – 1,000,000 cubic feet  
(Roughly the amount of waste when the Maine Yankee reactor was decommissioned.)

**Total Texas and Vermont waste - 6 million cubic feet  
Exceeds license by 3.7 million cubic feet.**

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Dr. Arjun Makhijani – President, Institute for Energy & Environmental Education, 2/08/11

What's out there? How much radioactive waste could be sent to Texas if importation is not limited?

- Annual average US Commercial volume 2006 – 2008 period: 2.9 million cubic feet and 0.74 million curies/year - Almost all was generated in states with no Compact disposal facility.
- An Out-of-Compact average is 700,000 curies per year – likely to be disposed of in Texas.**
- Licensed capacity is 3.89 million curies, which would be exceeded in less than six years.**

WCS had submitted numbers showing reduced volume needs, of 1.5 million cubic feet and 2.5 million curies for a 35-year timeframe.

Dr. Makhijani responds:

- Allowing Out-of-Compact waste could significantly increase the quantity of radioactivity imported to the Texas facility – on a scale of millions additional curies *every year*. The entire situation could be exacerbated should the NRC allow blending down of Greater than Class C waste to Class C by rule changes or guidance changes.
- Low-level radioactive waste consists of fission products that are dangerous to human health if ingested or inhaled in amounts of a fraction of a curie.