



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TEXAS

TESTIMONY

Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission
March 13, 2014

I am Susybelle Gosslee, speaking on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX.) The League is concerned about the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission not ensuring policies that incorporate adequate safeguards for the environment and public health with a strong role for public participation.

There are several issues that have not been consistent with a democratic society, the public interest and safety:

- The Commission has not developed a website that is easy for citizens and legislators to find information that is helpful for making informed decisions that affect safety and the State's finances. Recent safety issues and accidents at radioactive storage sites have proven careful oversight is of the utmost importance.
- Notices of Commission meetings are not widely distributed.
- The Commission has not urged the Department of State Health Services to designate transportation routes through Texas on road or rail that protect Texans' health, air, water and land resources. Radioactive waste can be stored onsite where it is generated in appropriate casks and not create additional hazards through transportation.
- Commission decisions are not widely communicated to the media thus reducing public notification.

The approach of LWV-TX to nuclear issues is one of problem solving. Our aim is to work constructively for maximum protection of public health, safety and the environment and for citizen participation in the decision-making process at all levels of government. LWV-TX opposes increased reliance on nuclear fission but recognizes its place in the nation's energy mix. The League's position is that storage of high-level waste from commercial reactors should be maximized at reactor sites. LWV-TX supports an active state role in the high-level waste decision-making process.

LWV-TX is persuaded that public understanding and cooperation are essential to the responsible and responsive management of our nation's natural resources and public health. The issues mentioned have been expressed during the creation of the Compact Commission and several times thereafter.

Thank you for addressing the issues mentioned to ensure safety of all Texans.