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RAM Storage

And the Two-Year
Storage Rule

RAM Storage Rule

What rule?

- 25 TAC §289.252(x)(11)
- Rule effective March 2016
- Enforcement discretion
 - Violation issuance delayed for two years
 - Allow licensees time to comply with rule



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RAM Storage Rule

Extension of existing rules

- Related to site decommissioning requirements
- Fills the gap when the site is still being used for principle activities listed on license
- Addresses disposal component



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RAM Storage Rule

25 TAC §289.252(x)(11)

- Four parts to rule
 - Specifies RAM and time limit
 - Allow for standby for future use
 - Allow for alternative disposal timeframe
 - Plan submission timeframe



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Rule Text

25 TAC §289.252(x)(11)

- Licensees shall not hold radioactive waste, sources, or devices not authorized for disposal by decay in storage, and that are not in use for longer than 24 months following the last principal activity use. ...



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Rule Text

25 TAC §289.252(x)(11) cont.

- ... Sources and devices kept in standby for future use may be excluded from the 24-month time limit if the agency approves a plan for future use. ...



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Rule Text

25 TAC §289.252(x)(11) cont.

- ... A plan for an alternative disposal timeframe may be submitted by the licensee if the 24-month time limit cannot be met. ...



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Rule Text

25 TAC §289.252(x)(11) cont.

- ... Licensees shall submit plans to the agency at least 30 days prior to the end of the 24 months of nonuse.



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Disposal

Why dispose of RAM?

- No longer needed
- Prevent loss of control of RAM
- Reduce potential exposure of workers and public
- Preclude contamination from spills or leaks
- Preclude unauthorized disposals



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Health and Safety

Issues with undisposed RAM

- Potential site contamination
- RAM not properly disposed resulting in contamination events
- Radiation exposures from unsecured RAM sources in public domain
- Excess doses to workers and public
- Impedes site termination closure



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RAM License

License listing of RAM

- Radioisotope
- Chemical/Physical Form of Material
- Maximum Activity
- Authorized Use
 - Identifies the principle activities



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Licensed Material

“Principle Activities” defined

- 25 TAC §289.201 (b)
- Activities authorized by the license that are essential to achieving the purpose(s) for which the license was issued or amended.
- Storage during which no licensed material is accessed for use or disposal and activities incidental to decontamination or decommissioning are not principal activities.



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Decommissioning

25 TAC §289.252(y)

- “Expiration and termination of licenses and decommissioning of sites and separate buildings or outdoor areas.”



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Decommissioning

25 TAC §289.252(y)(4)

- Within 60 days of the occurrence of any of the following, each licensee shall provide notification to the agency in writing and either begin decommissioning its site, or any separate building or outdoor area that contains residual radioactivity, so that the building and/or outdoor area is suitable for release in accordance with §289.202(eee) of this title, ... if:



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Decommissioning

25 TAC §289.252(y)(4)

- (B) the licensee has decided to permanently cease principal activities, as defined in §289.201(b) of this title, at the entire site or in any separate building or outdoor area;
- (C) no principal activities at an entire site as specified in the license have been conducted for a period of 24 months;



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Rule gap

RAM Site vs RAM

- Rule for license or site termination and decommissioning applies to entire site or in any separate building or outdoor area
- What if part of the area still used?
- What about the unused waste, sealed sources and devices?
- Health and safety issues from RAM not the location of use



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Rule Gap Coverage

Back to §289.252(x)(11)

- Rule requires the disposal of RAM waste, sources or devices no longer in use for longer than 24 months following last principle activities use
- Rule is RAM specific not use location specific
- Preclude legacy RAM waste, source and device issues encountered during site termination or decommissioning process



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But what about ...

Standby for future use

- You will need to have and submit a definite plan for future use of sources and devices
- You will need to present timeframe and specific principle activity use
- The agency will review proposed timeframe and principle activity use



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But what about ...

Alternative disposal timeframes

- The RAM waste, sources or devices may not have readily available disposal options
- There may be limited access to the sources or devices for removal
- You need to submit amendment request identifying disposal timeframes issues
- The agency will review alternative disposal timeframe request



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And when do I ...

Submit these plans

- You must submit a radioactive materials license amendment request at least 30 days prior to the end of the 24 months of principle activity nonuse



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What happens if ...

My request is approved

- The agency will issue you a license amendment with a license condition specific to the requested item(s)
- The license amendment most likely will be time limited specific to the proposed time frames submitted



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What happens if ...

My request is denied

- The agency will notify you in writing of the decision to deny your amendment request
- The agency will notify you of the requirement to dispose or otherwise transfer the RAM identified in the request



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Summary

RAM Storage Time Limit

- You must dispose of RAM waste, sources or devices that have not been used in the past 24 months
- You may request exclusion from the 24 month requirement of future use of sources and devices or alternative disposal time frames
- Storage rule is in place for public health and safety purposes



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Questions?

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