

DOE SUBMITS REPORT TO CONGRESS ON ALTERNATIVES FOR DISPOSAL OF GTCC AND GTTC-LIKE WASTE

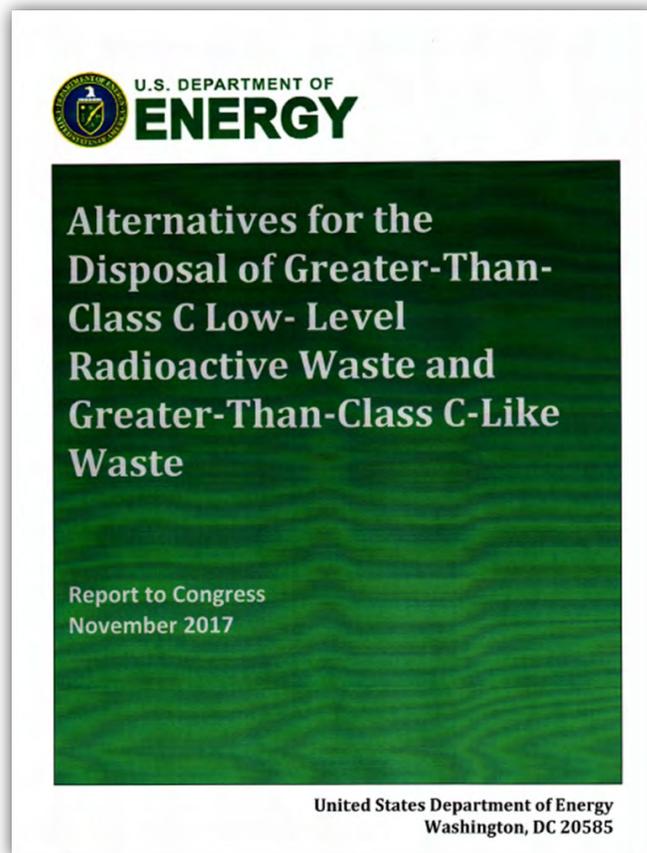
In November, DOE formally submitted its report to Congress, [“Alternatives for the Disposal of Greater-Than-Class C Low-Level Radioactive Waste and Greater-than-Class C-Like Waste.”](#) as required under the [Energy Policy Act of 2005](#). The report confirms land disposal at generic commercial facilities and/or at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico as its preferred alternative for disposal.

DOE is required to submit this report to Congress on disposal alternatives for Greater-Than-Class C (GTCC) and GTCC-like low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) prior to issuing a Record of Decision (ROD). The report includes an evaluation of “the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed development, operation, and long-term management of a disposal facility or facilities for GTTC LLRW and GTCC-like waste in DOE’s inventory.”

In addition, DOE identifies legislation and regulatory actions that would be required to implement the final alternative. For example, if disposal at WIPP is the final decision, the Land Withdrawal Act will need to be amended to remove the prohibition of non-defense waste disposal at the facility. DOE also notes that a project-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation may be required before implementation.

GTCC LLRW and GTCC-like waste includes:

- Activated metals from the decommissioning of nuclear utilities;
- Sealed sources used for diagnostics and treatment of cancer and other illnesses and other industrial uses; and
- Other wastes, which include waste from the production of molybdenum-99 (used in medical diagnostics); waste from radioisotope power systems (used in support of space exploration); and waste from environmental cleanup at DOE



sites (e.g. [West Valley Demonstration Project in New York](#)).

There is currently no identified path to disposal for GTCC LLRW and GTCC-like wastes. Following the submission of the report, DOE must now await action by Congress.

Efforts to define the federal government’s strategy to dispose of GTCC LLRW began in 1985 after Congress passed the [Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act](#). In February 2016, DOE issued its [Final Environmental Impact Statement](#) (EIS) outlining the preferred alternative above, but the EIS did not constitute a decision.