

Utah Radiation Control Board

Position Statement on Down-Blending Radioactive Waste

The Utah Radiation Control Board (Board) recognizes that down-blended radioactive waste does not pose any unique health and safety issues to the public that are not observed in other classes of low-level radioactive waste. The Board also is aware that down blending may appear to some as a process to circumvent Utah law, which prohibits any entity in Utah from accepting Class B or Class C low-level radioactive waste for commercial storage, treatment or disposal, Utah Code Ann. 19-3-103.7. However, in order to maintain public confidence in the regulatory process and to protect against unforeseen hazards, the Board issues the following position statements regarding down-blended radioactive waste:

1. The Board is opposed to waste blending when the intent is to alter the waste classification for the purposes of disposal site access.
2. Dilution of radioactive wastes with uncontaminated materials should be explicitly prohibited.
3. Current guidance documents dealing with concentration averaging and mixing should be updated to address the current understanding of the possible down-blending issues. Important matters dealing with waste blending, such as prohibition of certain practices, currently in guidance should be put into regulation.