

# Waste Issues Breakout Session Notes

Accelerator Safety Workshop  
Argonne National Laboratory  
Argonne, Illinois  
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Participants: Steve Butala (Argonne), Quentin Haas (Argonne), Charles J. Graham (LANSCE), Berline Short (Guest; Argonne), and Steve Frey (Session Leader)

- Notes:
- Consensus is that most if not all DOE Labs already are doing their optimal best to minimize generation of all categories of waste.
  - Nonetheless, waste management continues to challenge management and budgets at the labs.
  - Low-level radioactive wastes (LLRW) including waste sealed sources, low-level mixed waste (LLMW), and DOE Suspension Metals pose the largest program risks and challenges to resolve.
  - Ideas to help remedy the management difficulties posed by LLRW/LLMW/DOE Suspension Metals (besides those already discussed in the 'Waste Issues' presentation:
    - \* Formally require retiring or terminating employees to identify and account for any material in their possession that might be hazardous, radioactive, or both. Require the same of each employee who is switching to a new office space.
    - \* Halt practice of providing indefinite storage for material items that physicists want to have kept but not in their own offices or workspaces.
    - \* Ask Arnie Edelman to distribute a 'Lesson Learned' about what went wrong with the Pantex effort to establish a DOE Suspension Metals' free-release survey protocol.
    - \* Ask DOE to explore setting up an international consortium to secure, manage, and make available to DOE labs international LLRW disposal sites and LLMW Treatment/Storage/Disposal Facilities.
    - \* Enhance community outreach and public-school education efforts to help gain better acceptability for more DOE LLRW & LLMW disposal sites. DOE should adopt a "Below Regulatory Concern" free-release criteria for all metals and other forms of LLRW; could adapt a variation of the Ra-226 soil release *in situ* free-release limits in 40 CFR 192.
    - \* Bonus suggestion: Contract controversial moviemaker Roger Moore to produce a pro-nuclear-research movie.