

# POTENTIAL LIABILITIES OF STORING DISUSED SOURCES

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The U.S. Government Accountability Office has estimated that an average of 250 sealed sources are lost, stolen or abandoned each year. While most are recovered, some are not.

When sources or devices are no longer in use they represent a potential liability. Disused sources must be properly secured to prevent loss, theft or other malevolent use. As the owner of disused sources or devices, you are legally and financially liable for the consequences should your radioactive material damage the environment or create a public health and safety impact.

In today's national security environment, some disused sources pose a threat to the public as they could be used individually or in aggregate in a radiological dispersal device (RDD or dirty bomb) or a radiation exposure device (RED). Based on past emergency response training exercises, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has estimated that an RDD incident in a major metropolitan area could result in 39 million cubic feet and 10 billion gallons of radioactively contaminated waste requiring disposal.<sup>1</sup>

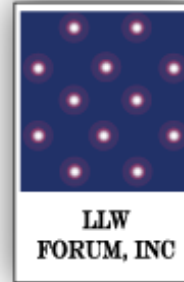
[1] Boe, T., et. al., *A Planning Tool for Estimating Waste Generation of a Radiological Incident and Subsequent Decontamination Efforts*, Proceedings of the Waste Management 2013 Waste Management Conference In Phoenix, Arizona.



[disusedsources.org](http://disusedsources.org)



[crcpd.org](http://crcpd.org)



[llwforum.org](http://llwforum.org)



[osrp.lanl.gov](http://osrp.lanl.gov)



ORS

Office of Radiological Security  
*Protect · Remove · Reduce*

[nnsa.energy.gov](http://nnsa.energy.gov)

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## RADIOACTIVE SEALED SOURCES & DEVICES

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### *Proper Management & Dispositioning of Disused Sealed Sources*

A disused source is any sealed source of radioactive material that is not being currently utilized and will never be utilized again for its intended purpose.

**DSWG**  
DISUSED SOURCES WORKING GROUP  
[www.disusedsources.org](http://www.disusedsources.org)

# PROPER MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSITIONING OF DISUSED SEALED SOURCES

*Disused sealed sources, devices and other unwanted radioactive materials should not be stored indefinitely. Rather they should be properly dispositioned in a timely manner. Most sealed sources and devices can be managed by returning them to the manufacturer or through commercial waste brokers or disposal facilities. The following resources are available to assist licensees in properly managing and disposing of their disused radioactive sources and devices.*

## CONFERENCE OF RADIATION CONTROL PROGRAM DIRECTORS

The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) is a nonprofit organization of individuals from government agencies that regulate and control the use of radioactive material and radiation sources. They can assist with finding, and in some cases funding, an outlet for radioactive material. CRCPD offers assistance in finding cost-effective, legal disposition for radioactive material through:

- Reuse by another licensee or device manufacturer;
- Reprocessing of the material;
- Commercial disposal; and
- Acceptance by state or federal government.

The CRCPD maintains directories of relevant commercial services including:

- Outlets for common radioactive materials;
- Packages, transportation and storage;
- Radioactive waste brokers and decontamination services;
- Radioactive site investigation and decontamination services; and
- Recyclers of high-activity sources.

## SOURCE COLLECTION & THREAT REDUCTION PROGRAM

The CRCPD administers the Source Collection and Threat Reduction (SCATR) program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to reduce the amount of unused radioactive material stored by licensees. Working in conjunction with state and local radiation control programs, the SCATR program provides matching funds for the recovery and disposition of unwanted sealed sources.

The SCATR program cost-share is being reduced, so licensees are strongly encouraged to take advantage of SCATR at your earliest convenience in order to maximize the benefit.

SCATR COST SHARE	
Today through March 31, 2017	40%
April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018	30%
April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019	20%

*For additional information regarding CRCPD and the SCATR program, contact Russ Meyer at [RMeyer@crcpd.org](mailto:RMeyer@crcpd.org) or visit [crcpd.org/RadioactiveMaterials.aspx](http://crcpd.org/RadioactiveMaterials.aspx).*

## OFF-SITE SOURCE RECOVERY PROJECT

The Off-Site Source Recovery Project (OSRP) is a U.S. Government activity sponsored by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). This program has the mission to remove excess, unwanted, abandoned or orphan radioactive sealed sources that pose a potential risk to health, safety and national security.

Initially focused on transuranic sealed sources, the OSRP mission expanded to also include high activity beta/gamma emitting sources that are a security concern. Sources must be registered with the OSRP at <http://osrp.lanl.gov/PickUpSources.aspx> in order to be considered for collection.

*For additional information on the OSRP, please go to [www.osrp.lanl.gov](http://www.osrp.lanl.gov).*

