



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



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GOVERNOR

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VIA E-MAIL

TO: Governor Rick Snyder
Senate Natural Resources Committee Members
House Natural Resources Committee Members

FROM: C. Heidi Grether, Director

DATE: January 12, 2018

SUBJECT: Report on the Low-Level Radioactive Waste 2016 Survey

In accordance with Section 18a of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Authority Act, 1987 PA 204, as amended, generators of low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) are required to report annually to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Low-Level Radioactive Waste Authority, certain information on the volume, type, and activity of the LLRW produced. This report is a summary of the information submitted by generators for waste generated in calendar year 2016.

Twenty-seven facilities reported that they generated waste requiring off-site disposal. The following table compares 2016 data with that of 2015.

Type of Facility	Number of Facilities Reporting Waste in 2016	Volume of LLRW Generated in 2016 (ft ³)	Number of Facilities Reporting Waste in 2015	Volume of LLRW Generated in 2015 (ft ³)
Academic	10	1,025	9	1,801
Government	1	0.02	2	10
Industry	9	217	10	392
Medical	4	53	4	38
Utility	3	65,221	3	53,689
TOTAL	27	66,516	28	55,930

LLRW is categorized in Classes. Class A waste comprises the largest volume of LLRW. Michigan waste generators can ship Class A waste to a licensed disposal facility, or the waste can be stored on-site until it has decayed to background. Certain organic chemicals and animal carcasses containing low concentrations of certain radioactive materials can also be shipped to licensed out-of-state facilities for incineration. Class B and C wastes are generated in much smaller volumes than Class A waste, but have significantly more radioactivity than Class A waste. Class B and C wastes are disposed at a licensed radioactive waste disposal facility. The volume of waste generated in 2016 was 66,038 cubic feet of Class A waste, 384 cubic feet of Class B waste, and 94 cubic feet of Class C waste. In 2016 all waste reporting facilities generated Class A waste, and two of the three utilities were responsible for all of the Class B and C waste. All LLRW disposal takes place outside of the state of Michigan.

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If you need further information, please contact Robert Skowronek, Manager, Radiological Protection Section, Waste Management and Radiological Protection Division, at 517-614-0882; or you may contact me at 517-284-6700.

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