**Lessons learned and good practices**

Experience is the best teacher! After 40 years in the nuclear services business, the last 20-plus years managing decommissioning efforts, many missteps have occurred and lessons have been learned. Here are some missteps to avoid by proper planning of transportation and disposal.

1. Don’t create an unexpected waste stream. This can easily happen during decontamination and/or deconstruction when waste streams are comingled unintentionally or unknowingly. The costliest of these is when a hazardous waste stream is mixed with a rad-only waste stream, driving the cost of transportation and disposal up by a factor of two or more, sometimes as high as a factor of 10.

2. Don’t package waste in bags or other containers with a shelf life shorter than the wait time to be shipped off-site. Repackaging costs and lost schedule will result.

3. Understand completely the waste acceptance criteria for the disposal facility being used. Nothing hurts more than shipments rejected at the disposal site.

4. Understanding the waste acceptance criteria can lead to efficiencies and cost savings. For example, when using large containers such as gondola cars, physical types of waste with the same classification can be mixed (e.g., soil and construction debris). Creative loading can maximize the weight of each container, whereas poor planning can minimize the weight and result in additional shipments.

5. On-site blending to meet the radionuclide concentration limits of the waste acceptance criteria may be allowed with prior approval by the regulator(s). The savings can be significant for large volumes of waste blended to meet a lower-cost waste classification. On-site blending plans can be developed to ensure each package is maximized and other conditions of the shipment can be addressed during the process. For example, meeting the moisture content requirements by adding a drying agent to your waste (often the case for excavated soils) can be accomplished during the same process.

---

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

1-25 CYD soft-sided bags  
Custom overpacks  
Dewatering bags  
Macro encapsulation bags  
Stand alone bags  
IP-1 & IP-2 certified bags  
Made in the USA  
SBA HUBZone Certified

**STRATEGIC PACKAGING SYSTEMS**

*VISIT US AT BOOTHS #113 | JOIN US IN THE DEMO ZONE 3/8 @ 3:00*

**WWW.SPSONLINE.BIZ**