
INTERSTATE AGENCIES

Interstate agencies enable states to work together for common purposes. Often, these agencies are created from interstate compacts approved by the U.S. Congress. The authority for interstate compacts is found in the U.S. Constitution (Article I, sec. 10).

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

Federal Co-Chair: Jesse L. White, Jr.

States' Co-Chair: Brereton Jones, Governor of Kentucky

Ex officio: Parris N. Glendening, Governor (Ronald M. Kreitner, Director of Planning, alternate).

Thomas M. Hunter, *Executive Director*

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The Appalachian Regional Commission was created by the federal Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-4). The Commission supports economic development of the Appalachian region through allocation of federal funds to member states. The Commission can act only on proposals submitted to it by state members.

The thirteen-state Appalachian region includes the Western Maryland counties of Washington, Allegany, and Garrett. To develop the region, the Commission plans and coordinates programs to construct a highway system, access roads, health centers, vocational schools, and sewage treatment plants. The Commission also works to develop land, timber and water resources; rehabilitate areas damaged by strip and surface mining; and establish local development districts to support local economic development.

The Governor serves *ex officio* as the Maryland member and designates an alternate (Code 1957, Art. 83A, sec. 6-402).

APPALACHIAN STATES LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE COMMISSION

Maryland members appointed by Governor: Jane T. Nishida, Secretary of the Environment, 1997 (Richard W. Collins, alternate); Martin P. Wasserman, M.D., J.D., Secretary of Health & Mental Hygiene, 1997 (Robert W. Eastridge, alternate).

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In 1986, Maryland ratified the Appalachian States Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact (Chapter 33, Acts of 1986). Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia also have ratified the Compact. The Compact established the Appalachian States Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission to assure interstate cooperation for the proper packaging and transportation of low-level radioactive wastes. The Commission identifies a host state (based on the volume and curie content of radioactive waste generated) to receive and dispose of radioactive waste from party states. Costs and benefits are distributed equitably among party states. After establishment of a regional facility, the Commission may ban wastes generated outside the region.

The Commission designates as a host state any party state that generates 25 percent or more of Pennsylvania's volume or total curie content of low-level radioactive waste, based on a comparison of averages over three successive years. A host state must begin immediate development of a regional facility designed to serve at least thirty years. Party states exempt from host state responsibilities continue as party states provided they generate less than the threshold amount of low-level radioactive waste over successive three-year periods.

The Commission conducts research and establishes regulations to reduce the volume of low-level radioactive waste. The Commission also prepares contingency plans in the event the regional facility is closed; collects fees from party states until the regional facility becomes available; and enters into temporary agreements for emergency disposal.

Appointed by the governor, two members from each party state serve on the Commission, as do four members from each host state. After the host state has selected a site for a regional facility, the governor from that state appoints to the Commission an additional member who is a resident of the county or municipality where the facility will be located. Based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the Commission provides for its own organization and procedures, by-laws, rules, and regulations (Code Environment Article, secs. 7-301 through 7-306).