SAN ONOFRE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PANEL

SPENT FUEL SOLUTIONS

SONGS Community Engagement Panel & Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition Joint Meeting: **Department of Energy's Federal Spent Fuel Management Program**

Thursday, June 13, 2024, 5:30 – 8:30 pm PDT

at the Casino San Clemente, 140 Avenida Pico, and via Microsoft Teams
Link available on the CEP meeting webpage at SONGScommunity.com

THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

Agenda Topics	Presenter(s)	Time
CEP and SCE Opening Comments • Welcome, meeting timing and hybrid format • Topics being presented and resources available at SONGScommunity.com	Dan Stetson, CEP Chair Fred Bailly, SCE VP/SONGS CNO	5:30 – 5:40
Congressional Subcommittee Hearing Recap • "American Nuclear Energy Expansion: Spent Fuel Policy and Innovation"	Dan Stetson	5:40 – 5:50
Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition Update • Observations from Washington, D.C. advocacy trip	Jim Desmond, SFS coalition Co-Chair/San Diego County Supervisor	5:50 – 5:55
Introduction of Congressman	Katrina Foley, SFS coalition Co-Chair/Orange County Supervisor	5:55 – 6:00
U.S. Congressman Mike Levin	Mike Levin (Representative D-CA, 49th District)	6:00 – 6:05
U.S. Department of Energy's Federal Spent Fuel Management Program • Past, present, and future of the federal spent fuel program	Paul Murray, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition, U.S. Department of Energy	6:05 – 6:50
Break		6:50 – 7:00
CEP Community Updates • April 30 CEP member consultation • Revised CEP Charter	Dan Stetson	7:00 – 7:10
SONGS Decommissioning • The big picture • Dismantlement Update	Fred Bailly Jerry Stephenson, SCE Engineering Manager	7:10 – 7:25
Public Comment Period and Facilitated Dialogue	Victor Cabral, CEP Vice Chair/San Clemente Mayor Martha McNicholas, CEP Secretary	7:25 – 8:25
CEP, SCE, and SFS Closing Comments	Dan Stetson Fred Bailly Jim Desmond	8:25 – 8:30

SAN ONOFRE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PANEL

SPENT FUEL SOLUTIONS

Opening Comments

Dan Stetson and Fred Bailly

Opening Comments

Dan Stetson

SAN ONOFRE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PANEL

CEP Members	Organization
Dan Stetson, Chairman	Trustee and Executive Director, Nicholas Endowment
Honorable. Victor Cabral, Vice Chairman	Mayor, City of San Clemente
Martha McNicholas, Secretary	Community member
Michelle Anderson	Director, Emergency Management Division, Orange County Sheriff's Dept.
Mike Balsamo	SVP, Government Relations, Rancho Mission Viejo, (South OC Economic Coalition Board Member)
Garry Brown	President and CEO - Orange County Coastkeeper
Honorable Jim Desmond	Supervisor, San Diego County, 5th District
Honorable Katrina Foley	Supervisor, Orange County, 5th District
Rob Howard	City of Oceanside, Representative
Sam Jammal	Community Plans and Liaison Officer (CPLO), Camp Pendleton, G-7
Scott Kibbey	South Sector Superintendent, California State Parks, Orange Coast District
Val Macedo	Business Manager, Laborers International Union of North America, Local 89
Marni Magda	Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter
Michael Parham	VP, Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees
Ted Quinn	Former President - American Nuclear Society
Honorable John Taylor	Council Member, City of San Juan Capistrano, 4th District
Captain Mel Vernon	San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians
Honorable Michael Villar	Council Member, City of Dana Point, 5th District

Public Comment

Dan Stetson

Directions for the public comment period:

To submit comments and questions in writing:

- Use the CEP Comment Form, if online
- Use the CEP Question/Comment Card available at the entrance

To sign up to speak:

- Use the CEP Comment Form, if online
- Use the CEP Question/Comment Card available at the entrance

For this meeting, comments and questions related to our focus topic and guest speaker Paul Murray will be addressed first and general questions will be addressed in the order received

We will also begin our public comments with the people in the room and move on to our online guests

Victor Cabral and Martha McNicholas will facilitate

SAN ONOFRE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PANEL

SPENT FUEL SOLUTIONS

House Energy, Climate & Grid Security Subcommittee Hearing

Congressional Hearing on Spent Fuel

Dan Stetson

- U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security hearing entitled: "American Nuclear Energy Expansion: Spent Fuel Policy and Innovation" on April 10
  - CEP Chair Dan Stetson testified
  - Represented communities in the vicinity of stranded spent fuel
  - Discussed six policy principles for amending the Nuclear Waste Policy Act
  - Emphasized how consolidated interim storage is important because it can deliver offsite storage literally decades earlier than deep geologic repositories
  - Subcommittee hearing reflected bi-partisan interest in a legislation initiative

SPENT FUEL SOLUTIONS

Coalition Update

Supervisor Jim Desmond

San Diego County, 5th District

and Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition Co-Chair

Washington, D.C. Briefings

- Co-chairs visited Washington D.C. on May 8 to meet with Congressional leaders
- Shared our policy priorities and urged support for amendments to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) as amended in 1987
- As a next step, we will expand our outreach to other members of the House and Senate
- Spent Fuel Solutions will also continue to work with our local Representatives and committees of jurisdiction



From left: SFS Executive Director Chris Wahl, SD County Supervisor Jim Desmond, Rep. Mike Levin, OC Supervisor Katrina Foley, and Advisor Tom Isaacs

State Resolution



skip to content | home | accessibility | FAQ | feedback | sitemap | login

Quick Search: Bill Number | AB1 or ab 1 or ABX | go

Home | Bill Information | California Law | Publications | Other Resources | My Subscriptions | My Favorites

Bill Information >> Bill Search >> Text

Bill PDF | Add To My Favorites | Track Bill | Version: 05/09/24 - Introduced Go

AJR-18 Spent nuclear fuel: storage. (2023-2024)

Text | Votes | History | Bill Analysis | Today's Law As Amended | Compare Versions | Status | Comments To Author

SHARE THIS:

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION **NO. 18**

Introduced by Assembly Member Davies
(Coauthor: Senator Blakespear)

May 09, 2024

Relative to nuclear fuel.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 18, as introduced, Davies. Spent nuclear fuel: storage.

This measure would urge the Congress of the United States to prioritize fulfilling the federal government's legal and contractual obligation to provide a home for spent nuclear fuel within California and 33 other states across the nation, and would urge Congress and the United States Department of Energy to take action to permit the relocation of the spent nuclear fuel in California and elsewhere to consolidated interim storage and ultimately a permanent repository.

Welcome U.S. Congressman Mike Levin

Representative D-CA, 49th District

Supervisor Katrina Foley

Orange County, 5th District,
and Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition Co-Chair

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Office of NUCLEAR ENERGY

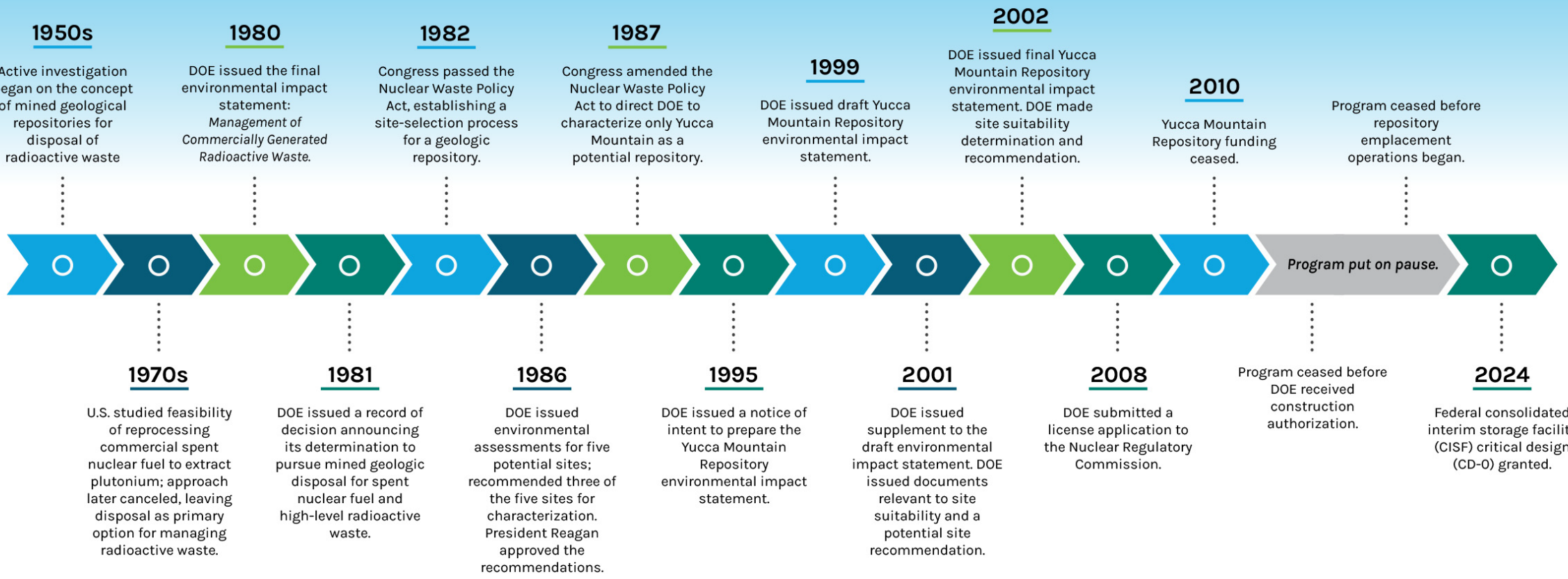
Used Nuclear Fuel and High Level Waste

June 2024

DOE NE-8

Mr. Paul Murray, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Spent Fuel & Waste Disposition
U.S. Department of Energy

TIMELINE HISTORY OF DEEP GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY PROGRAM



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Office of NUCLEAR ENERGY | CONSENT-BASED SITING

US Waste SNF and HLW Generators

1. Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel ~ 140,000 tons

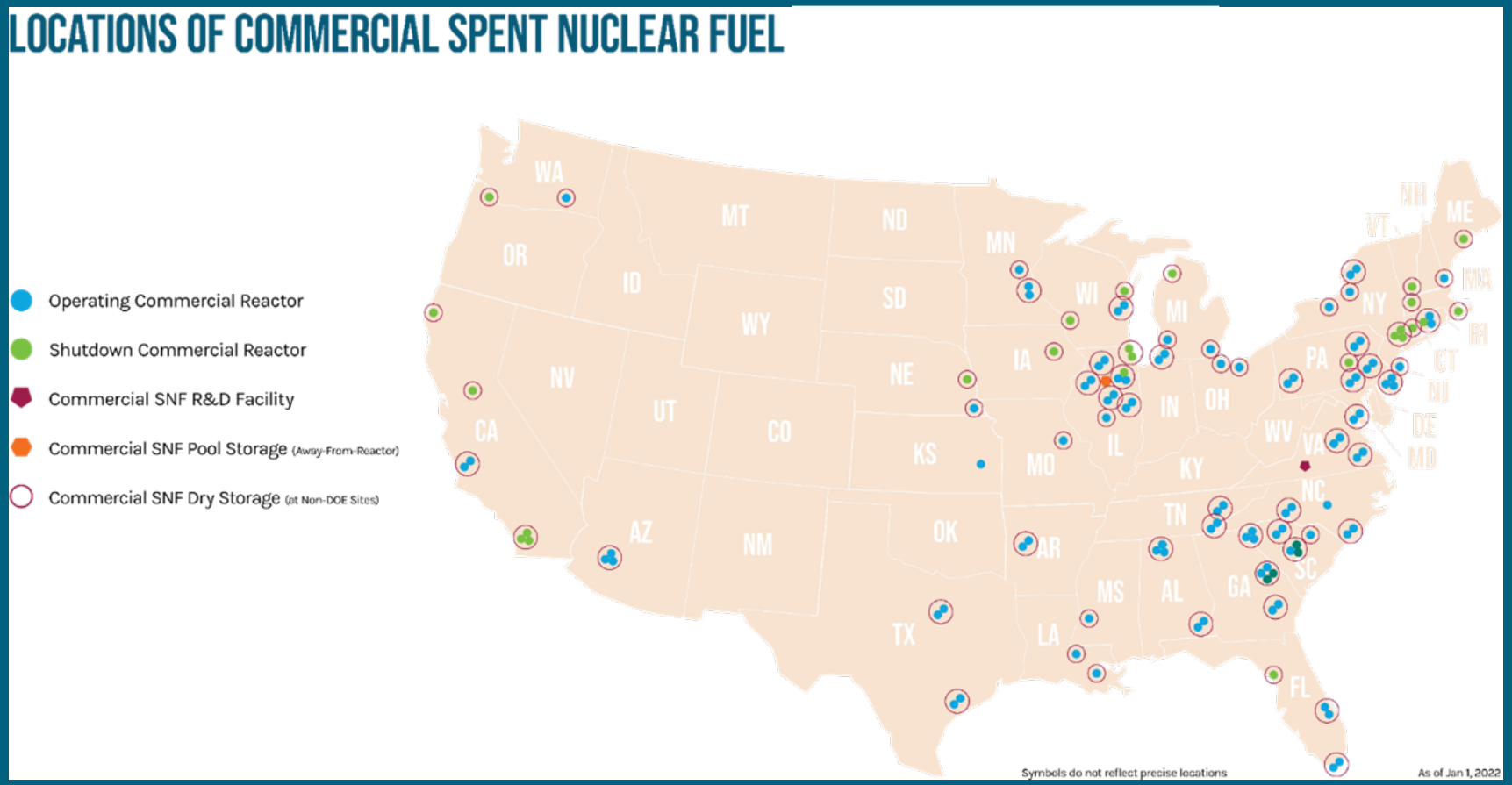
2. DOE Environmental Management, (DOE EM) High Level Waste from:
   - Vitrified HLW from DOE EM clean-up sites., ~21,000 canisters of vitrified waste

3. Naval Reactors Spent Nuclear Fuel

4. DOE Spent Nuclear Fuel
   - Hanford., Idaho, Savannah River, Fort St Vrain

5. Advanced Reactors Spent Nuclear Fuel

U.S. Spent Nuclear Fuel In Context



1958
United States began using commercial nuclear power

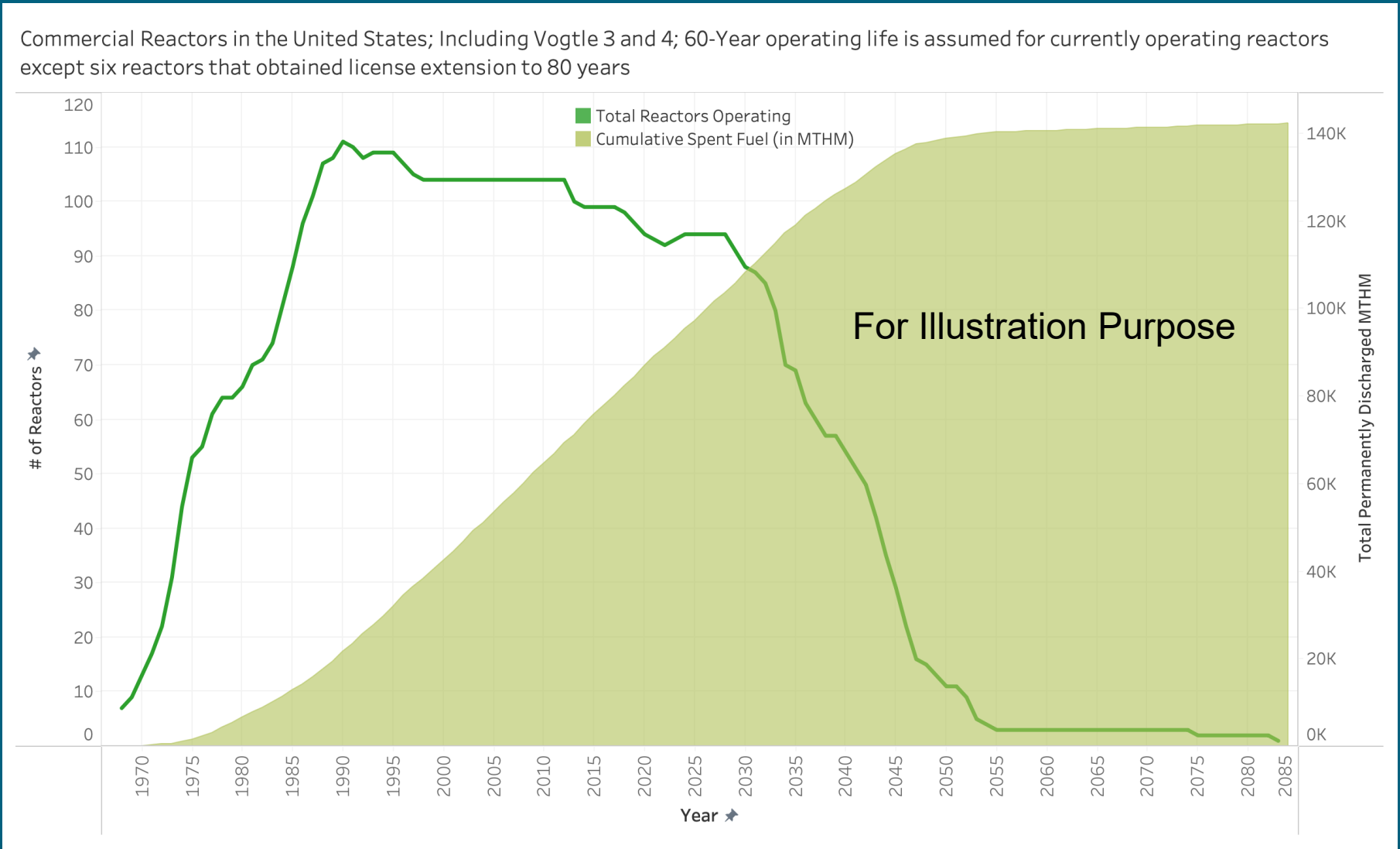
2023
93 operating commercial reactors at 53 nuclear power plant sites in 28 states

- 20 nuclear power plants have shut down
- 90,000+ metric tons of spent nuclear fuel

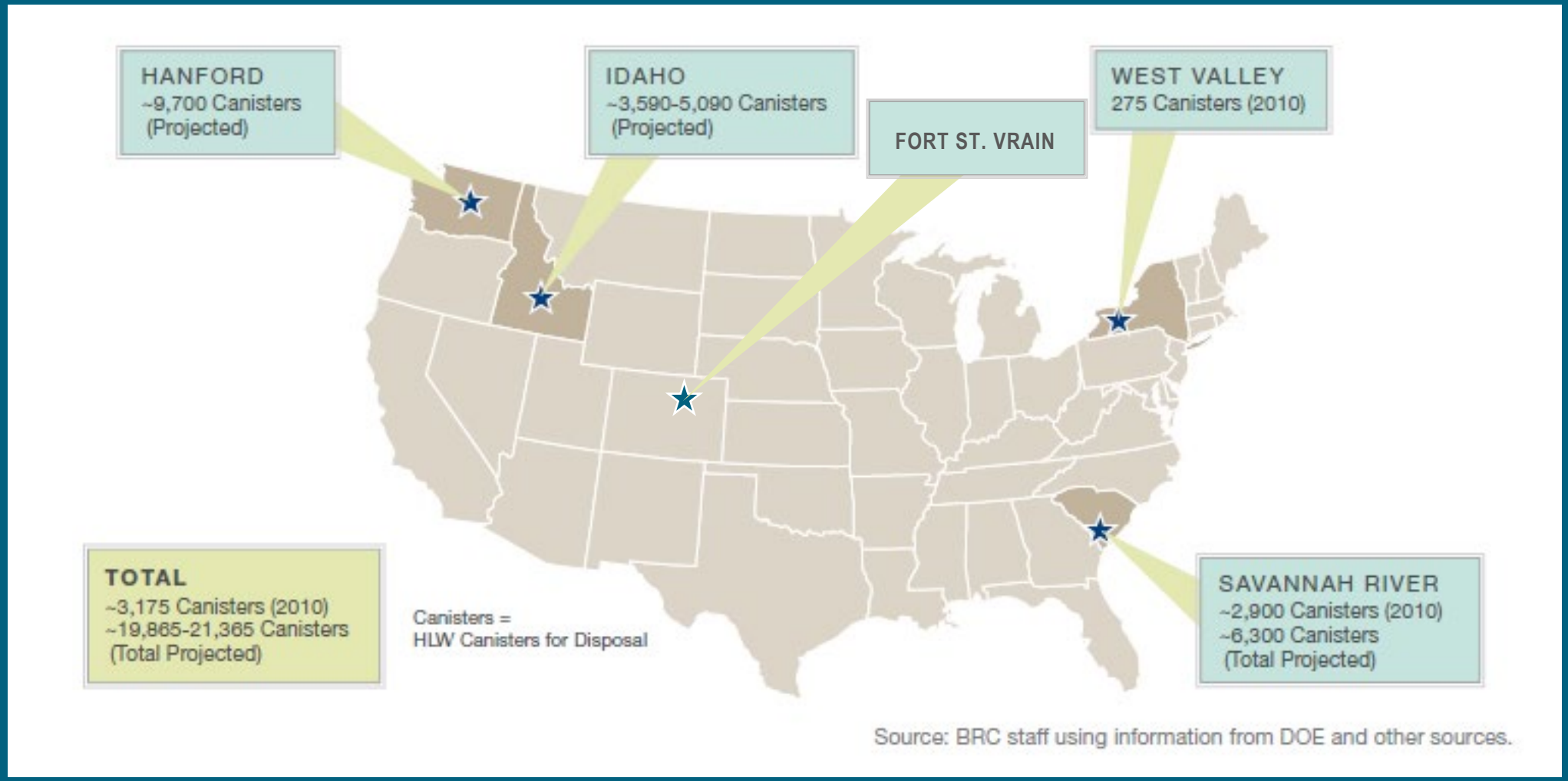
End of Current Fleet
United States estimated to have ~140,000 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel

Who is responsible for the management of SNF?

Total Reactors Operating vs Cumulative Spent Fuel

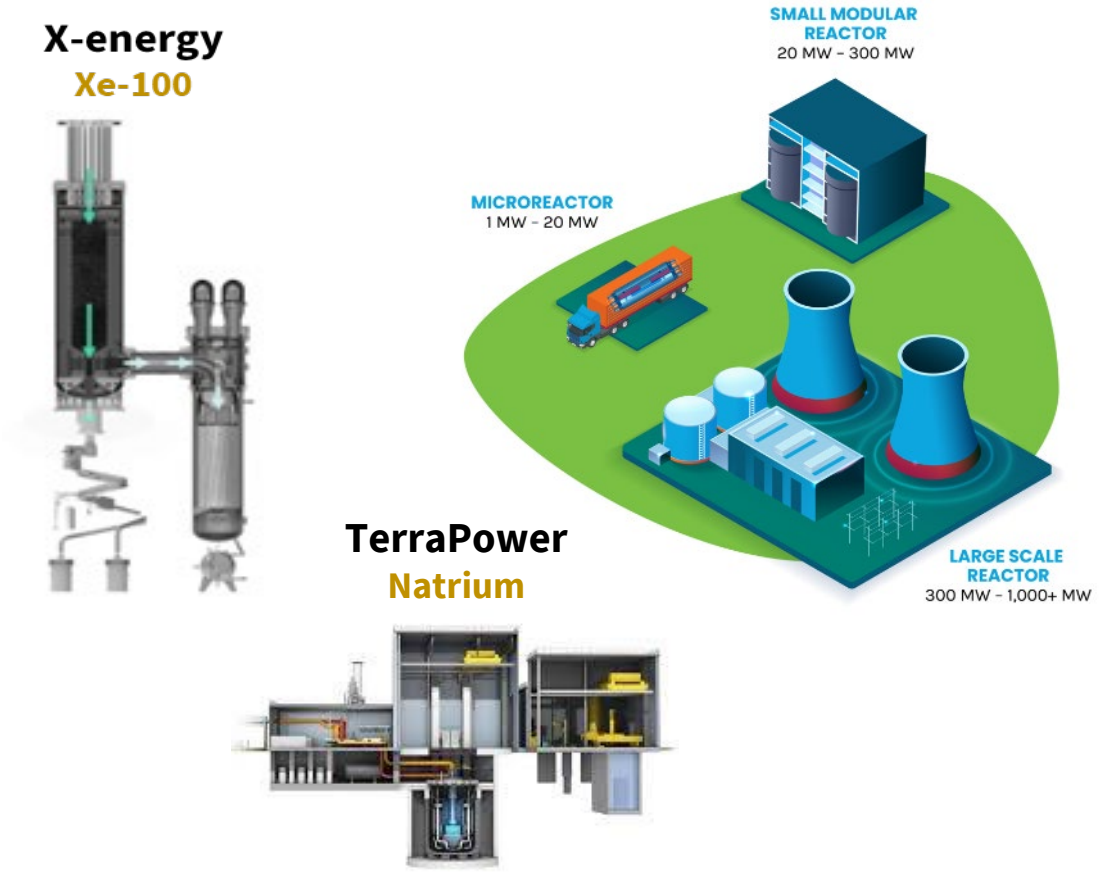


DOE Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Waste

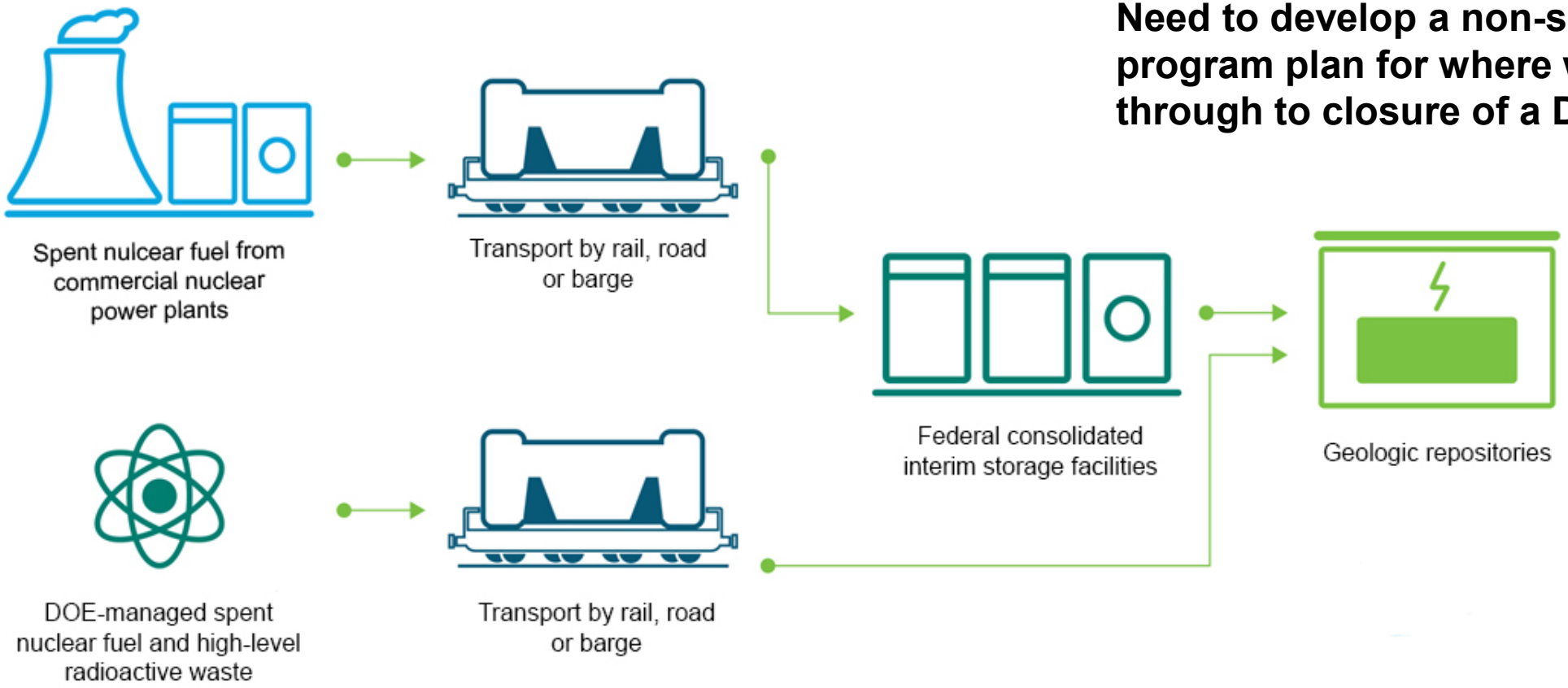


Considering Waste Management for Advanced Reactors

- Topic that is always forgotten
- SNF from advanced reactors is an important topic
- DOE is authorized to sign a contract with reactor operator to accept SNF for federal storage or disposal
- Working to mitigate risk to deployment of advanced reactors
- Collaborating with international partners, UK, France, Canada and Japan



Integrated Waste Management System



Need to develop a non-site specific program plan for where we are today through to closure of a DGR?

ATLAS Railcar



High Burn-up Demonstration Cask

- Supporting the safe long term dry storage of high burn-up fuel at utility sites
- All SNF is now HBU
- Important to license renewal applications for over 60 of the current commercial fleet.
- Need to move the cask from operating reactor site to new home in 2027
- ~15t of SNF
- Upcoming Nuclear Regulatory Commission “Toll Gates” require cask to be opened in 2029 to supply data in 2038
- Working on options for where to move the cask



Storage Research and Development Highlights

- DOE has Spent tens of millions of dollars studying stress corrosion cracking in storage systems for many years
- Accessing vulnerability of storage systems in different regions of the US to SCC
- Reviewing data for inland sites
- For marine sites will adapt “guided wave technology” used in the commercial industry to monitor pipes to always monitor storage system integrity
- Guided wave is similar to “sonar,” sending a pulse of energy or wave along the length of the material
- Some of the wave is reflected back from welds or defects that might be slowly forming
- Technology should be able to identify issue allowing ample time for detailed inspection and repair.

Package Performance Demonstration

Why is DOE planning a PPD?

- Build trust and confidence in the safety of SNF transportation casks and SNF transportation by rail
- Record high-resolution video to use in DOE communication products and public outreach
- Explore additional opportunities to strengthen relationships

DOE is considering:

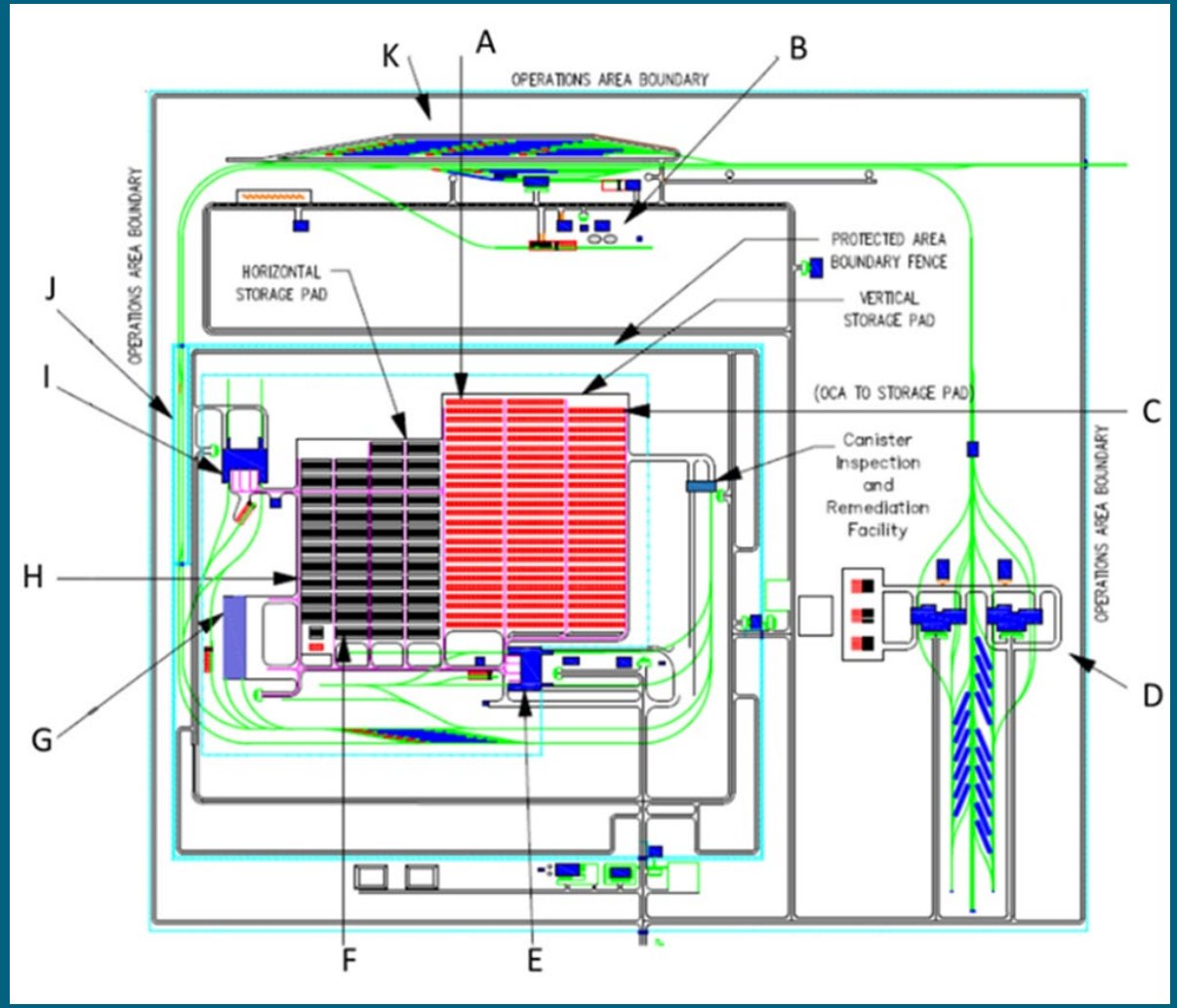
- Potential tests to be performed
- Potential test sites
- Potential transportation casks
- Potential analytical tools





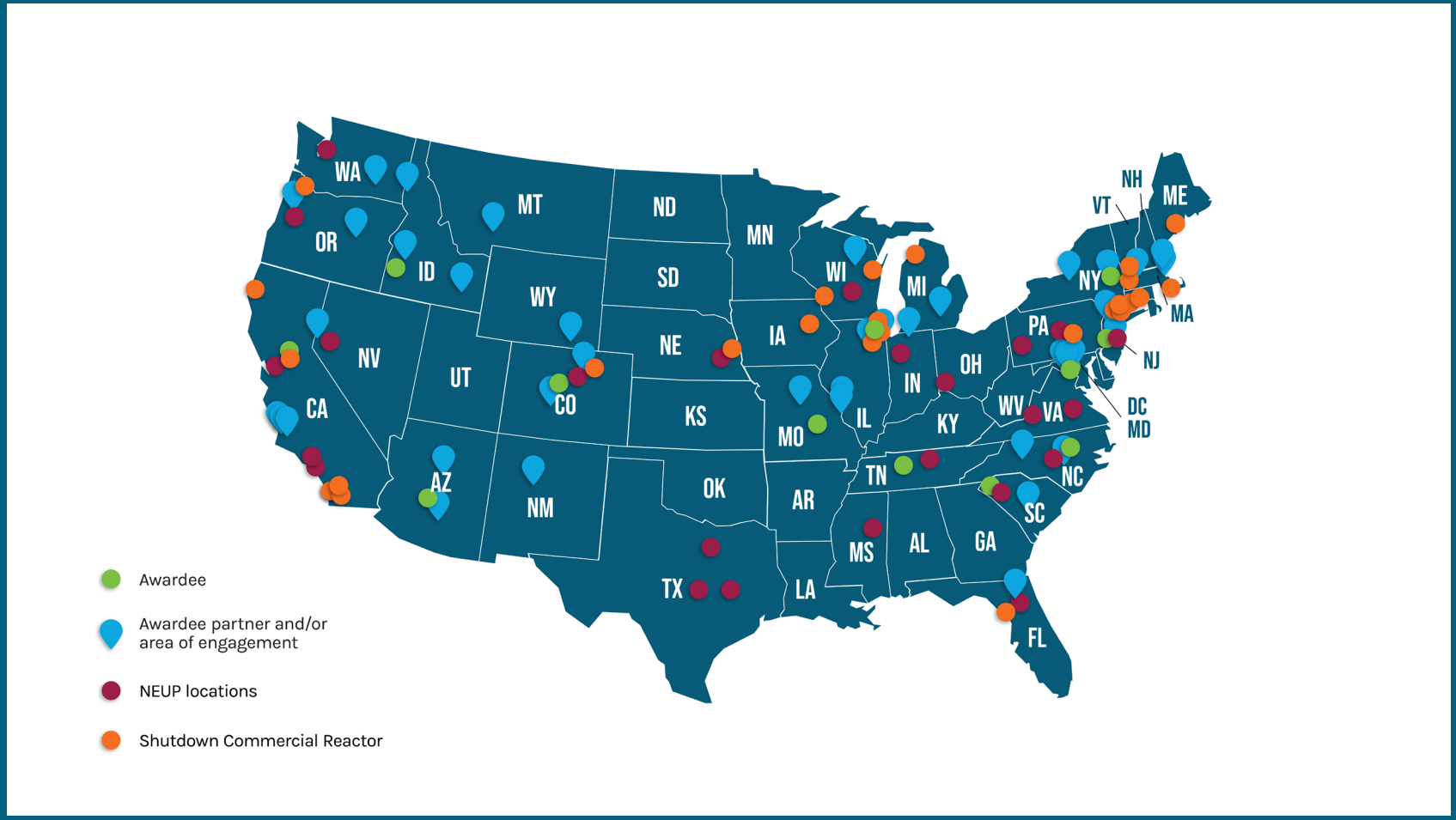
Consolidated Federal Interim Storage

- Design proceeding on schedule
- May 2024 approved to move to detailed design
- Liabilities estimate assumes start of construction complete in 2038. Any later will increase the nations liabilities
- Operational 2038-2042
- Consider Blue Ribbon Commission recommendation to move between shutdown sites?



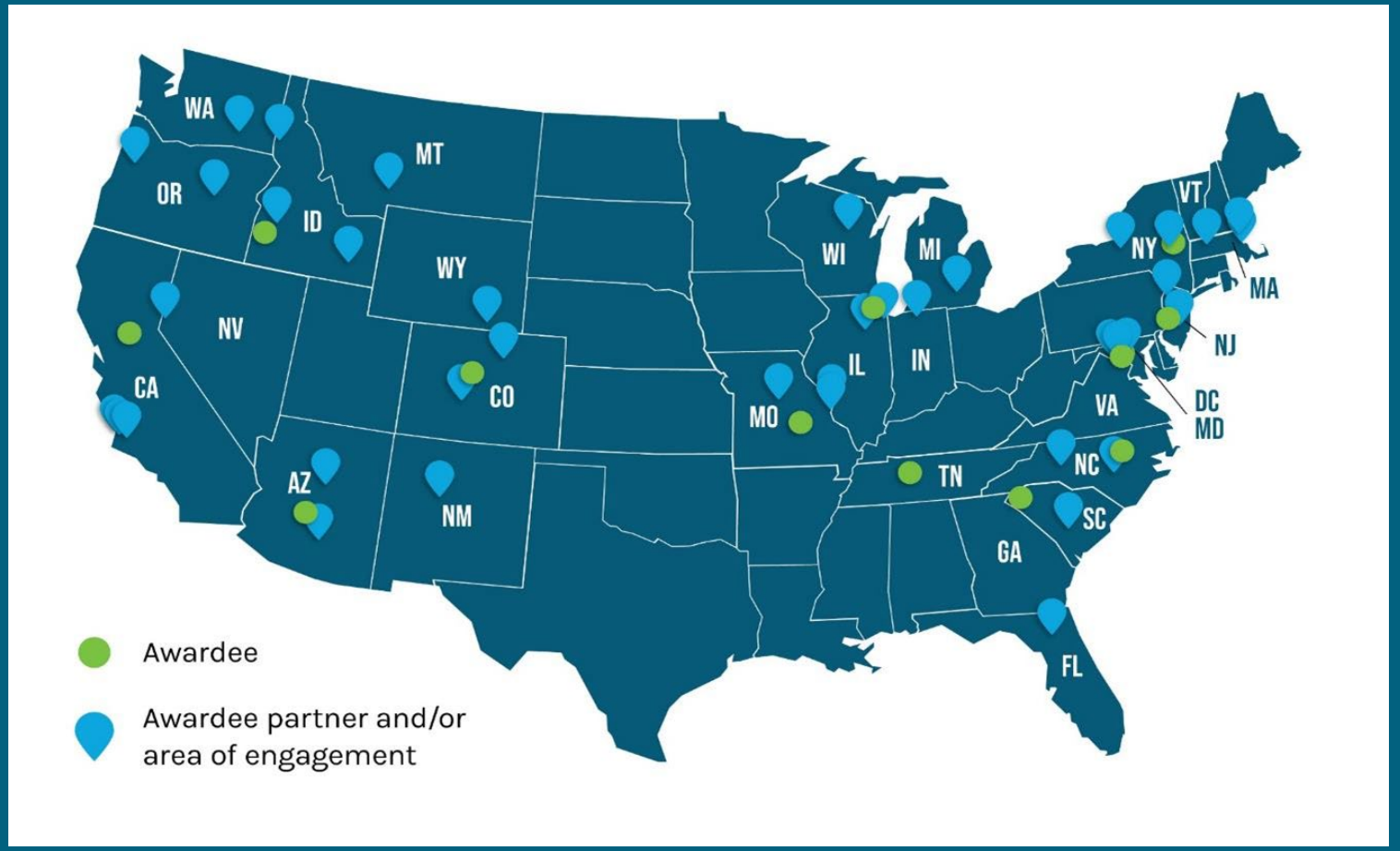
NEUP, Consortia and Shut Down Sites

- Nuclear Energy University Program, (NEUP)
- Consortia
- Shut Down Sites



Consent-based Siting Consortia

- On June 9, 2023, DOE selected geographically and institutionally diverse awardees to serve as information, engagement, and resource hubs, referred to as consent-based siting consortia. The consortia will foster community discussion and capture feedback on interim storage of spent nuclear fuel.
- Locations identified represent principal investigators, partners, or communities that will participate in the awards. DOE is not looking for volunteer communities to host interim storage facilities in this stage of the consent-based siting process. As such, the locations identified do not represent locations being considered for a consolidated interim storage facility for commercial spent nuclear fuel.



CONSENT-BASED SITING CONSORTIA PROGRESS

Consent-based siting consortia support DOE's efforts to facilitate inclusive community engagement and elicit public feedback on consent-based siting, management of spent nuclear fuel, and federal consolidated interim storage. The 12 awardees are comprised of various organizations to help reach communities across the country and remove barriers to participate in DOE's consent-based siting process. **Awardees have made significant progress in carrying out community engagement activities and providing direct grants to communities wanting to learn more.**

30 Consortia Public/Media Engagements Held

21 New Team Members Brought into the Consortia Effort

3 Community Sub-Grant Programs Issued

20 Information Resource Projects

9 Government Engagements Held (Tribal, State, Local, Federal)

Progress: DOE's Consent-Based Siting Process General Timeline



Progress: Consent-Based Siting Consortia Timeline



Updates reflect activities from September 2023 up to mid-March 2024.



To learn more about these metrics, please visit energy.gov/ne/consent-based-siting-consortia or send an email to consentbasedsiting@hq.doe.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Office of NUCLEAR ENERGY | CONSENT-BASED SITING

Repository Program

- Consider all options for the program in line with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act
- Continue to support international R&D related to repository studies
- Evaluating sending DOE engineers and managers to work on international programs
- Build capability in US industry to support the start of a future program
- Exploring how to collaborate with DOE Environmental Management.

Opportunities

- Slow controlled steady progress that builds public and political trust
- Strong engagement with Tribal representatives.
- Engage with multiple stakeholders
  - Controlled and consistent engagement
  - Seek input to decisions where possible
- A simple vision that everyone can understand and measure progress
- At the right time consider reestablishing a dedicated office for management of SNF and HLW

Risks

- Communication

- Schedule slips increasing the liability to the US Tax payer
  - In last 10 years we have slipped 17 years
  - Risk we will slip significantly again adding billions to the liability

- Clearly explain the project schedule from when we restart the program through to closing repository

- When to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act? The existing authorization allows us to move forward, make incremental steps to build trust and political support for the change

Public Comment

Dan Stetson

Directions for the public comment period:

To submit comments and questions in writing:

- Use the CEP Comment Form, if online
- Use the CEP Question/Comment Card available at the entrance

To sign up to speak:

- Use the CEP Comment Form, if online
- Use the CEP Question/Comment Card available at the entrance

For this meeting, comments and questions related to our focus topic and guest speaker Paul Murray will be addressed first and general questions will be addressed in the order received

We will also begin our public comments with the people in the room and move on to our online guests

Victor Cabral and Martha McNicholas will facilitate

SAN ONOFRE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PANEL

SPENT FUEL SOLUTIONS

BREAK

SAN ONOFRE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PANEL

SPENT FUEL SOLUTIONS

General Community Updates

Dan Stetson

CEP Community Update

Dan Stetson

- CEP Member Consultation Meeting – April 30, 2024
- Agenda topics:
  - Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition Update
  - Energy, Climate and Grid Security Subcommittee hearing in Washington, D.C. - April 10
  - CEP Charter Revision
  - Shake-table demonstration at the University of California San Diego - June 12
  - 1Q CEP meeting feedback
  - What members are hearing about SONGS
  - Suggestions for future meeting agenda topics

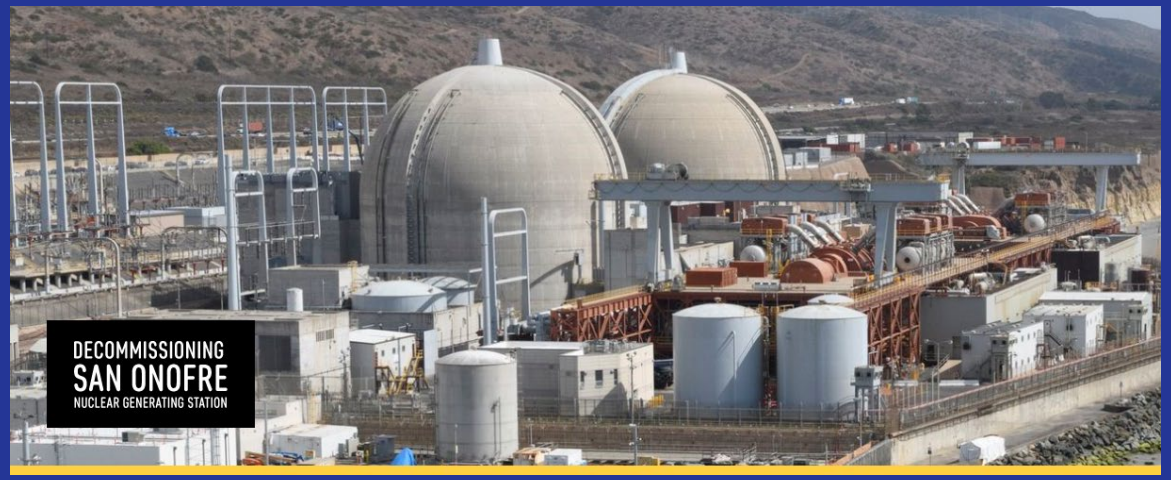
CEP Community Update

Dan Stetson

- CEP Charter, Rev. 1 updates reflect learning, improvements, and changes since 2014
- Substantive revisions:
  - **Federal policy** - CEP's primary focus remains on matters of interest to the local community as compared to changes in national or state policies
  - **Term limits** - Terms may be renewed without limits as institutional knowledge over time is valuable
  - **Advice from all CEP leadership** - Recognize the value of advice from the CEP Vice Chairperson and Secretary, in addition to the Chairperson
  - **Meeting minutes** - Reflect the practice of SCE preparing meeting minutes, focusing the Secretary's valuable time on review and approval
  - **Meeting periodicity** - Provide flexibility in the frequency of CEP Regular Meetings, whether more frequently or—in time—a reduction as the current phase of decontamination and dismantlement draws to a close at the end of 2028
  - **Online-only meetings** - Adds reference to fully online meetings adopted for the COVID-19 pandemic and defines hybrid (online/face-to-face) meetings
- Rev. 1 is posted alongside the original charter www.SONGScommunity.com

SONGS: The Big Picture

Fred Bailly
Vice President & Chief Nuclear Officer



Safety | Stewardship | Engagement

Decommissioning Principles

SAFETY



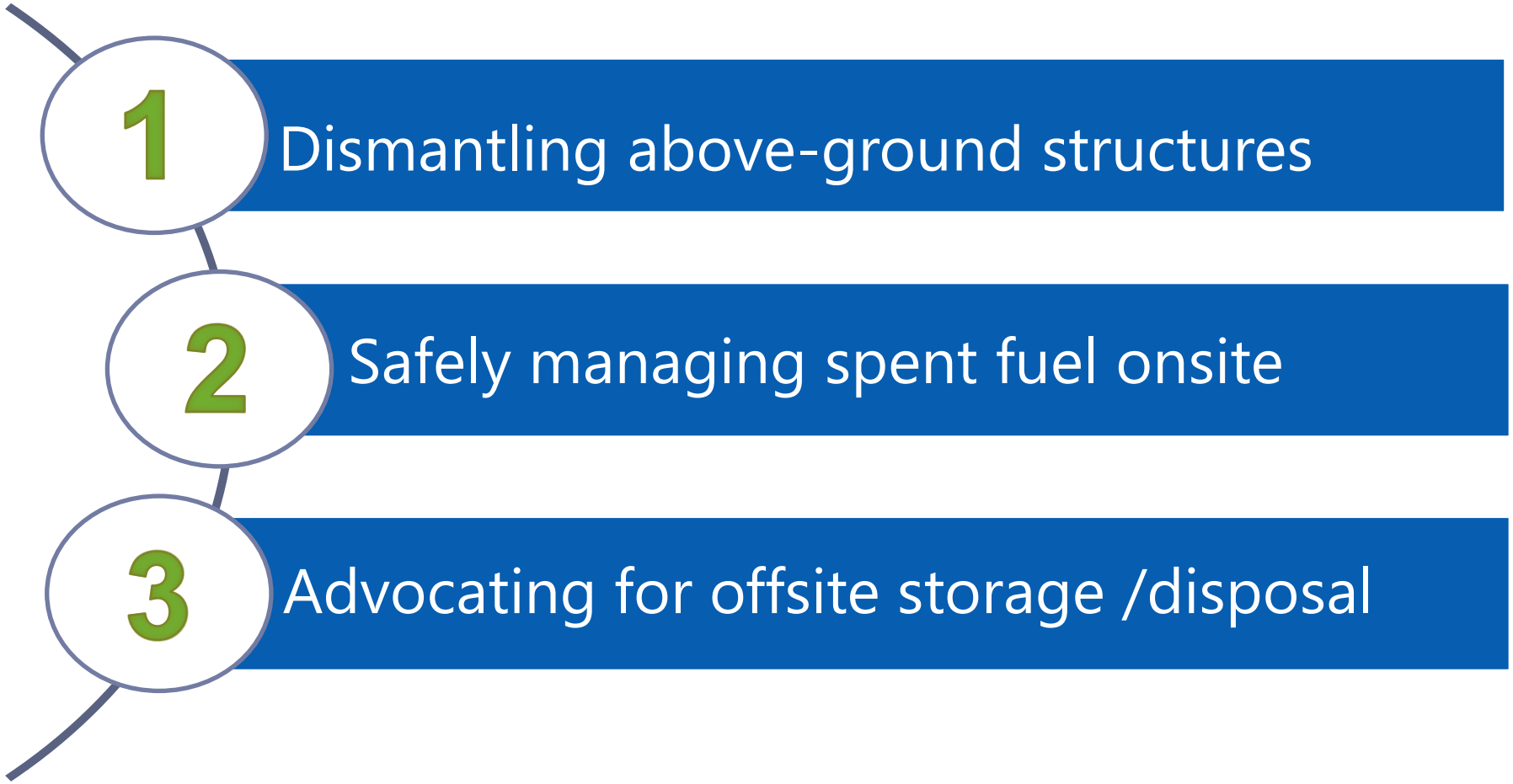
STEWARDSHIP



ENGAGEMENT

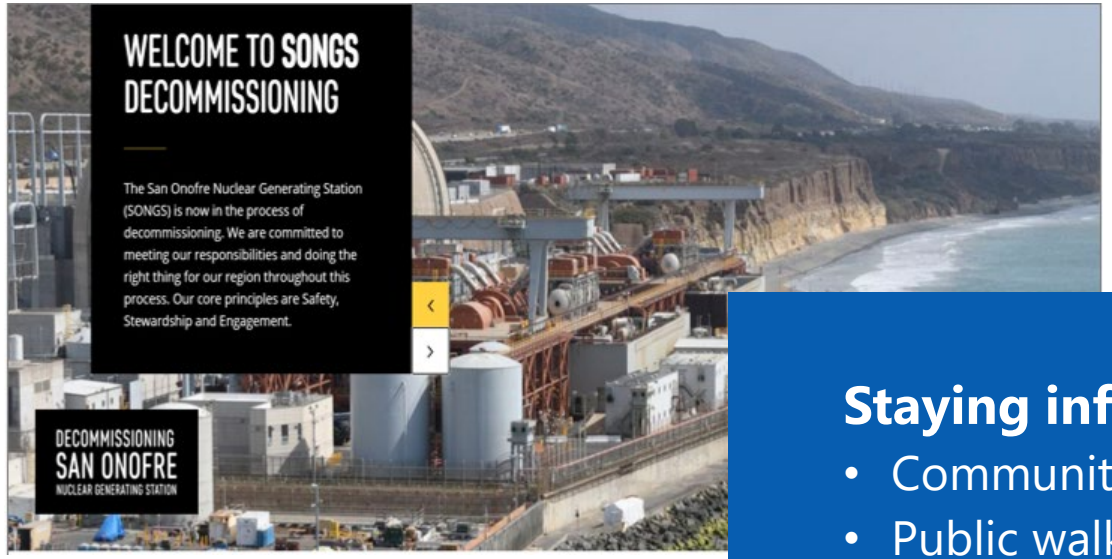


Major Workstreams



Resources

Learn about decommissioning
www.songscommunity.com



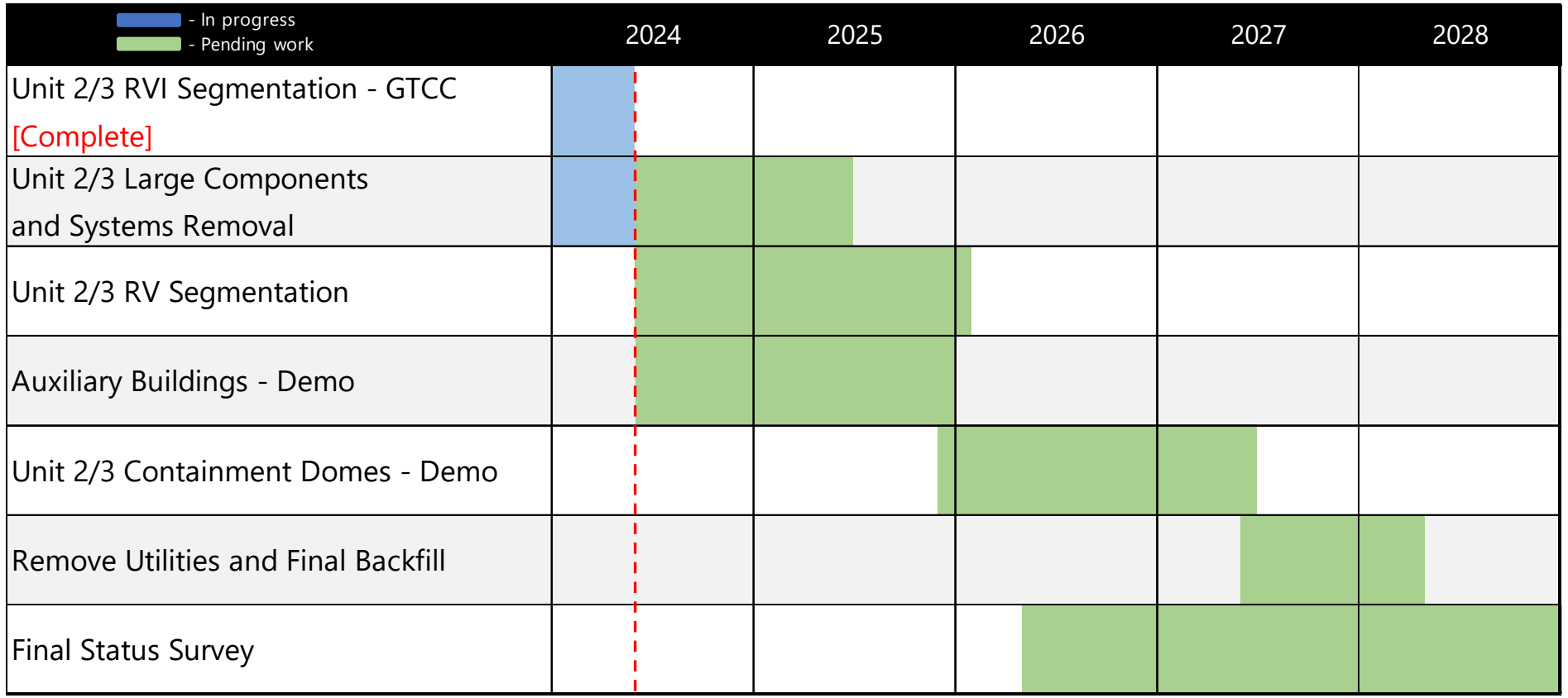
Staying informed

- Community Engagement Panel meeting dates
- Public walking tour dates and sign ups
- Decommissioning blog and news updates
- SONGS community update email
- Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram

SONGS Dismantlement Update

Jerry Stephenson
SCE Engineering Manager

Dismantlement Project Schedule: Key Activities



Demo - Demolition
GTCC - Greater Than Class "C" Waste
RV - Reactor Vessel
RVI - Reactor Vessel Internals

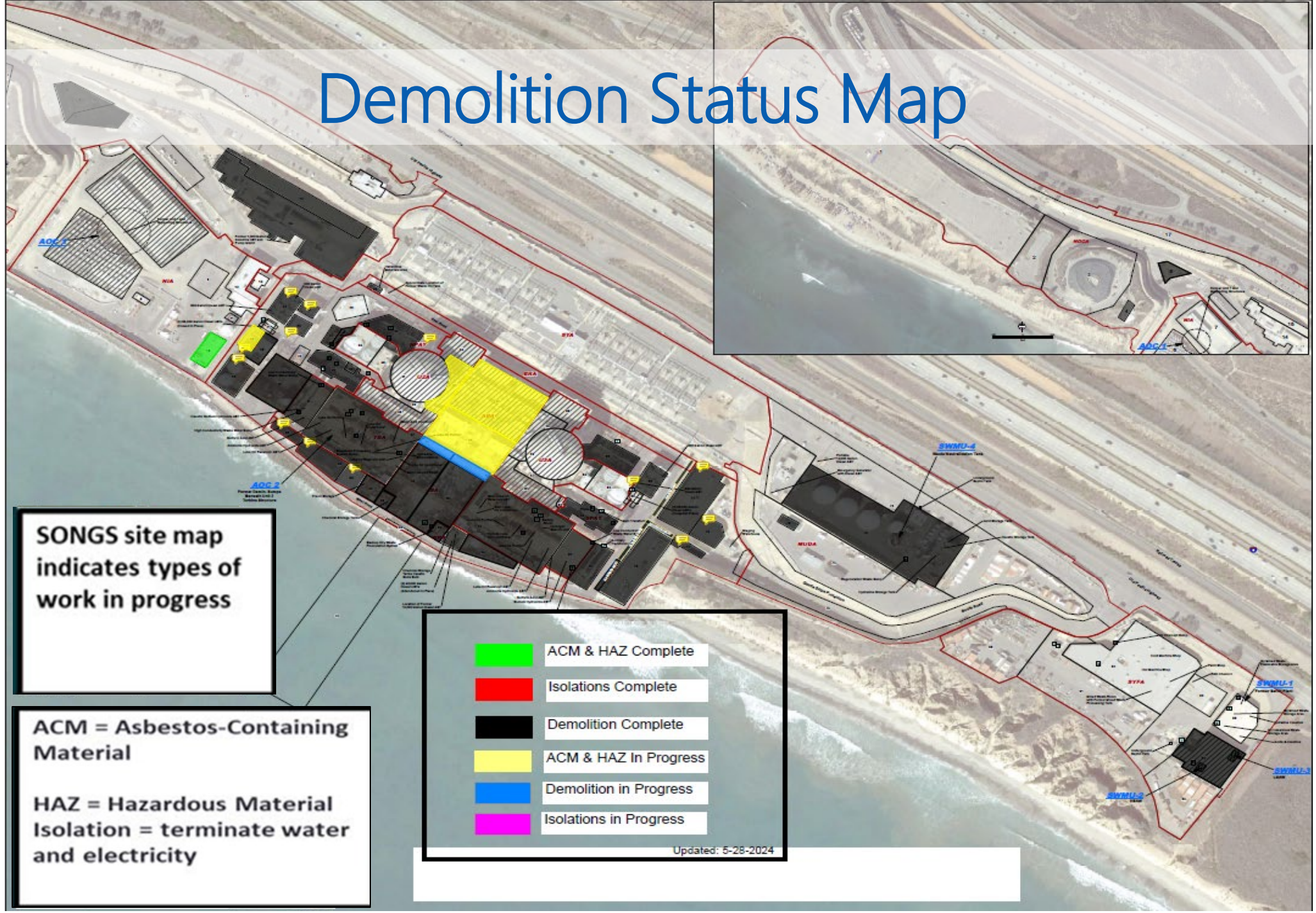
Decommissioning Work Activities

- Inside containment domes and power block buildings
  - Completed underwater cutting of reactor vessel internals (RVI)
  - GTCC[1] Project complete and should demobilized by end of June 2024
  - Non GTCC chip collection and cleaning in U2 and U3 Reactor Cavities
  - Unit 2 and Unit 3 Pressurizers to be rigged / removed starting June 5, 2024
  - Demo of Steam Generators continues in Unit 2 and has commenced in Unit 3

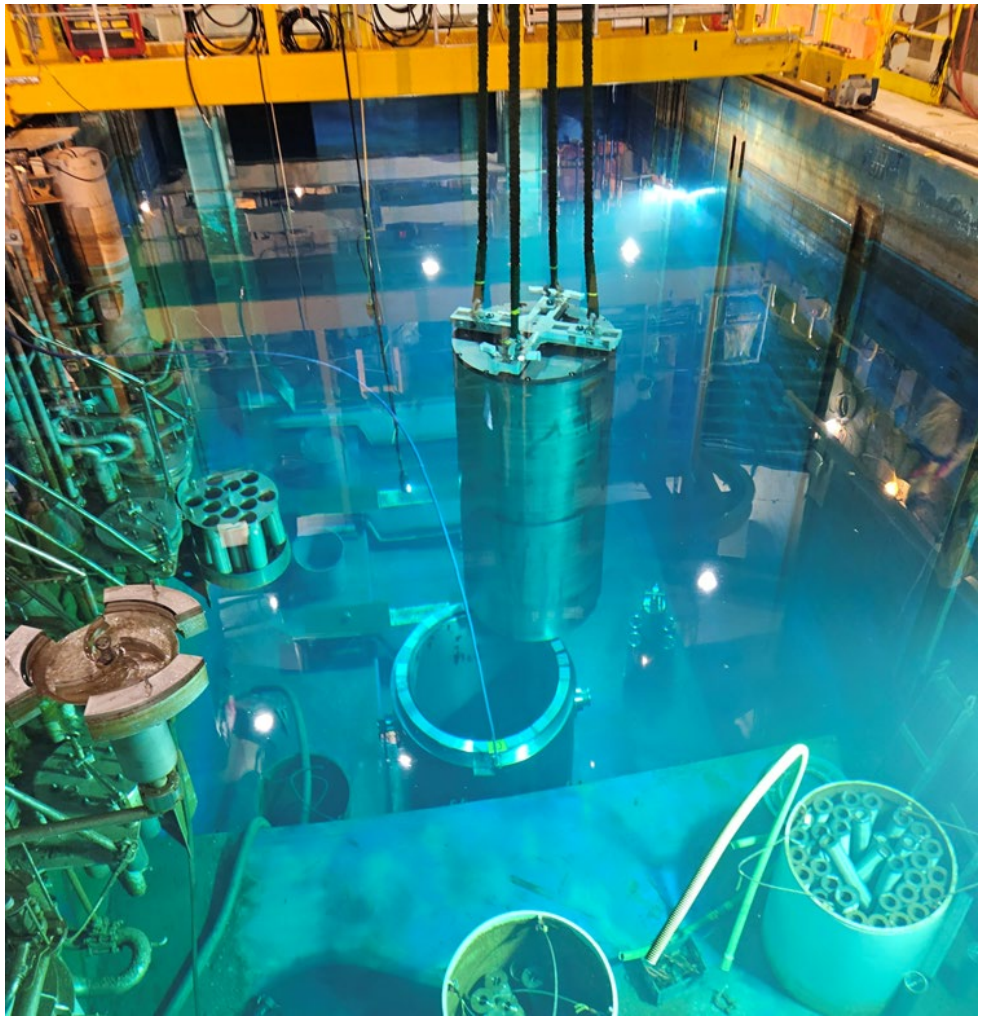
- Outside work
  - Demolition of auxiliary buildings has started
  - Divers inspecting intake / discharge conduits
  - Class A waste, recycling, and landfill shipments continue

[1]Low-level radiological waste is characterized as Class A (most benign), B, C, or Greater-Than-Class C (GTCC); GTCC is most highly activated and stored much like spent fuel

Demolition Status Map

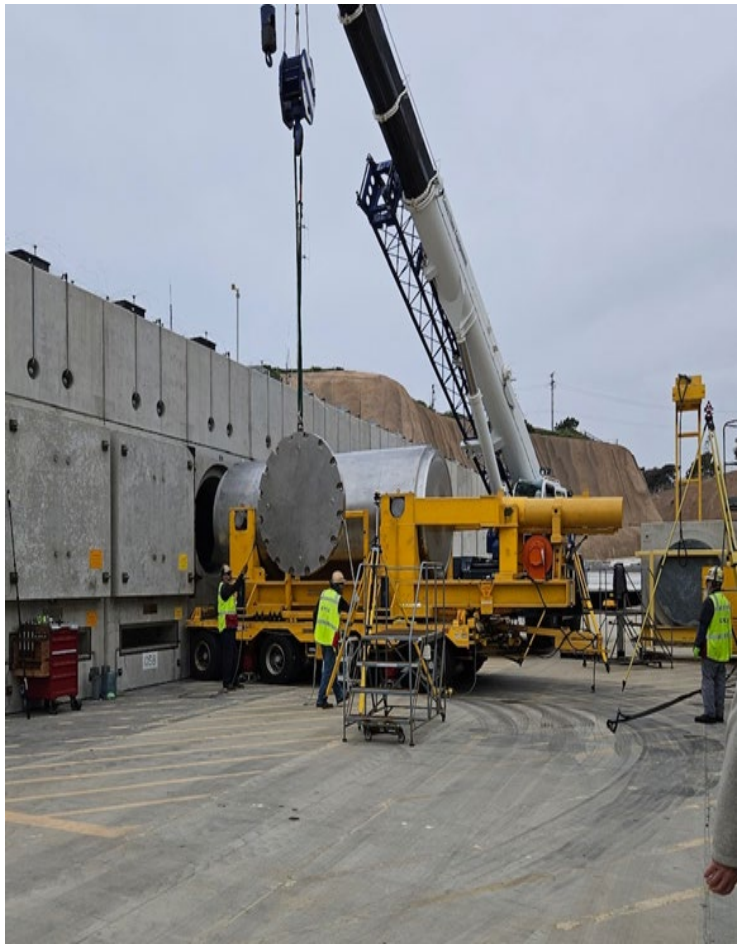


Completed Processing of Last Unit 3 Container

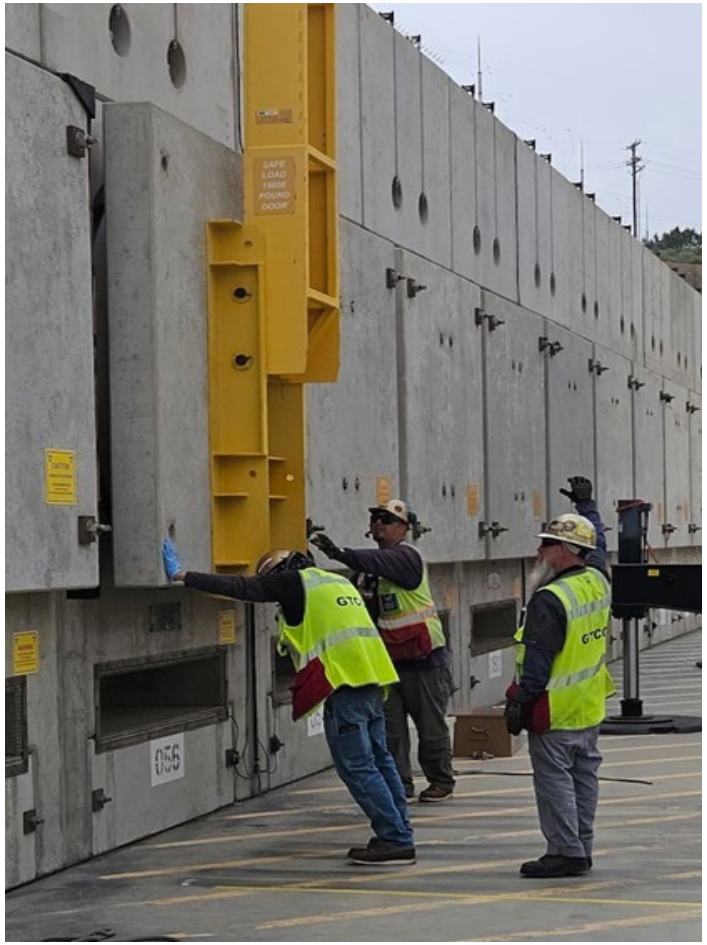




Placement of Last Unit 2 Container on ISFSI Pad







Demo of Steam Generators Continues



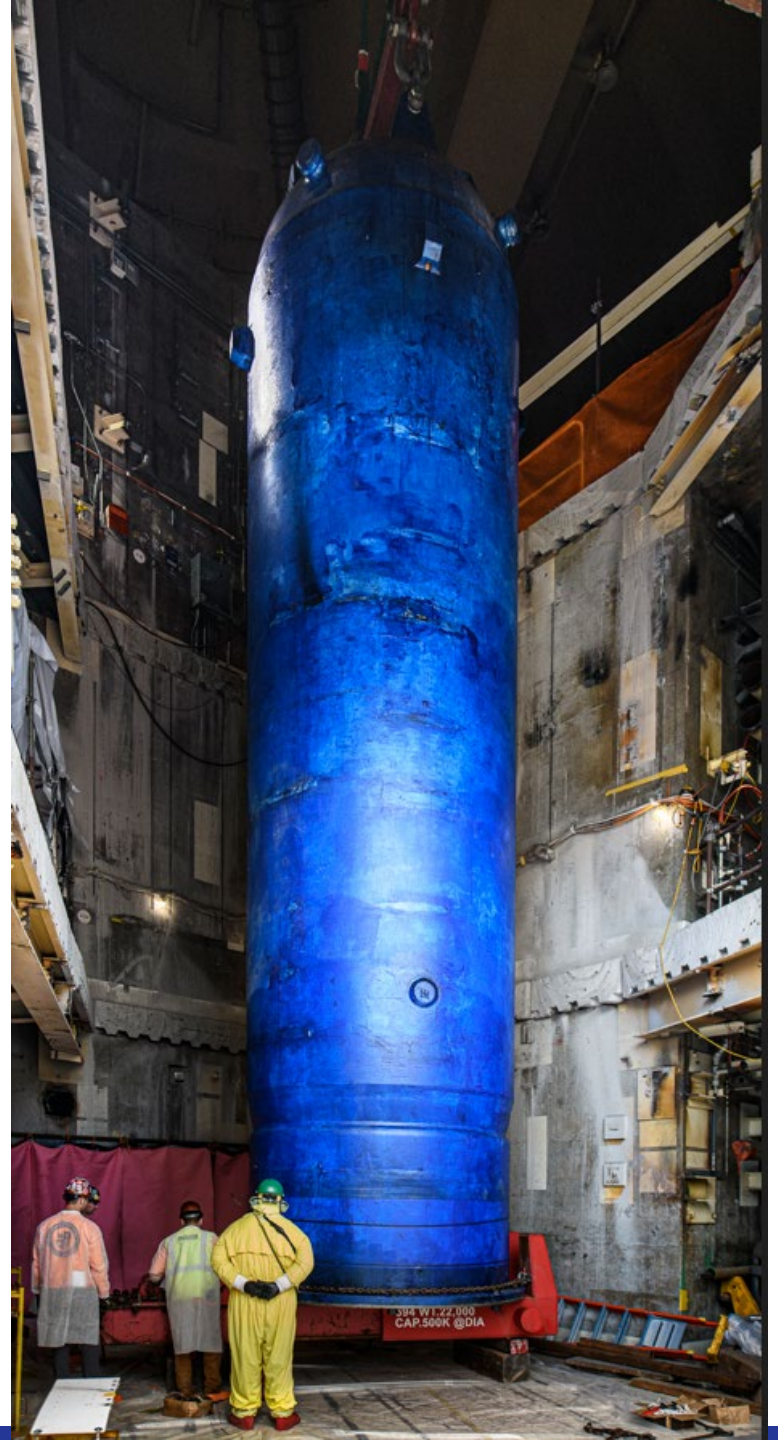


Exterior Demo of Aux Buildings has Resumed

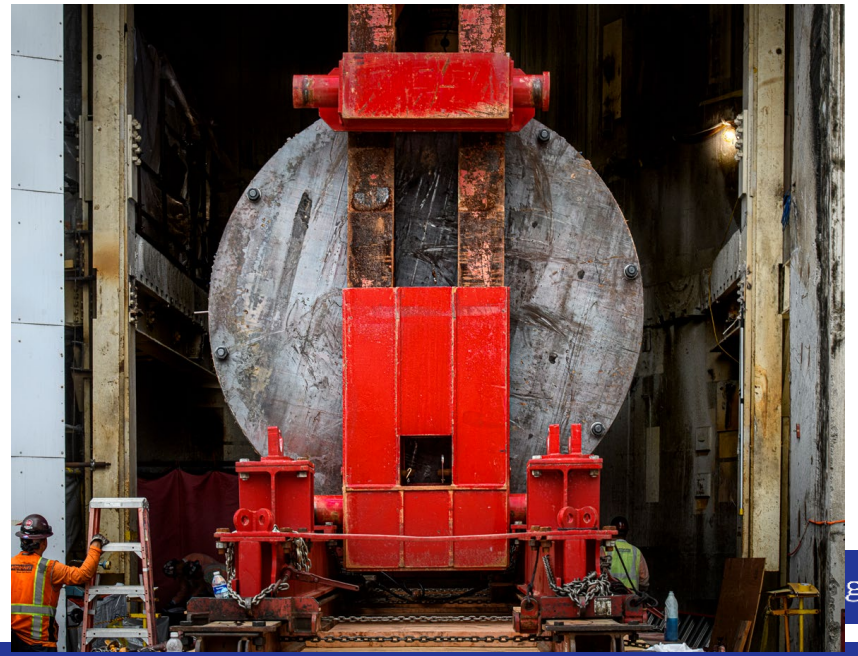


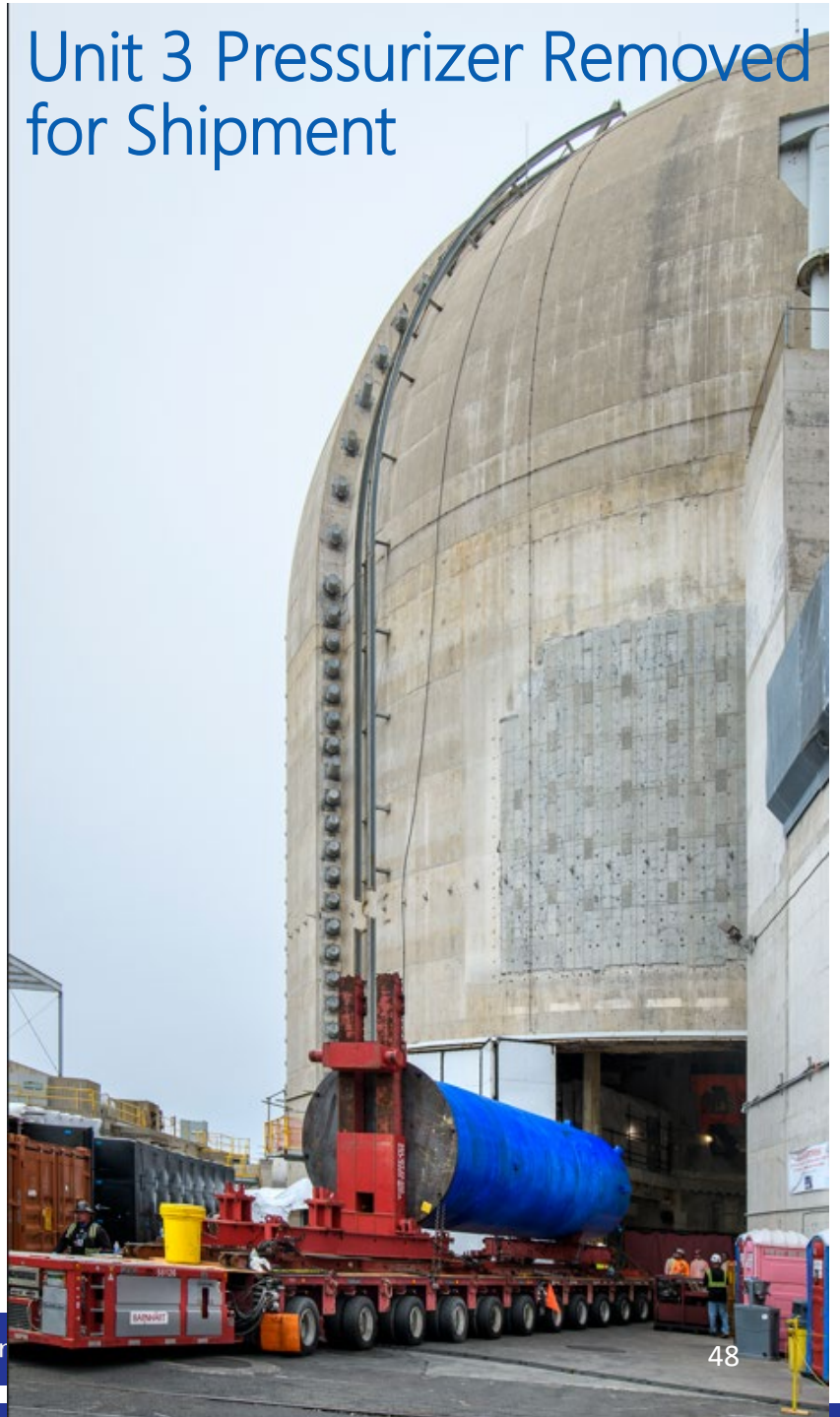


Unit 3 Pressurizer Removed for Shipment









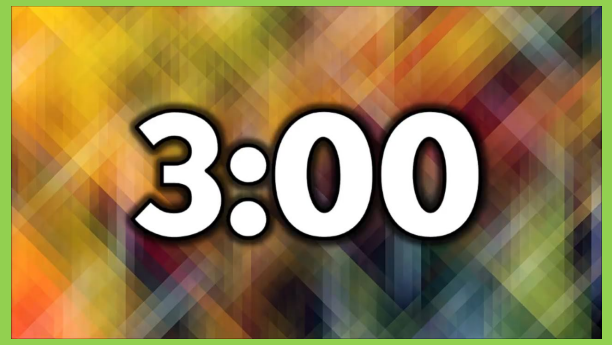
Speaker Queue:

SAN ONOFRE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PANEL

SPENT FUEL SOLUTIONS

General Public Comment

To sign up to speak online use the [CEP Comment Form]



CLOSING COMMENTS

FRED BAILLY

Closing Comments

Supervisor Jim Desmond

San Diego County, 5th District

and Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition Co-Chair

KEY TAKEAWAYS

DAN STETSON

2024 CEP Meeting Schedule
(subject to change)

Focus Topics	Date
1Q CEP Regular Meeting SONGS Environmental Stewardship	March 7
CEP Member Consultation Meeting	April 30
2Q CEP Regular Meeting SONGS CEP & Spent Fuel Solutions Coalition Joint Meeting: DOE Federal Spent Fuel Management Program	June 13
3Q CEP Regular Meeting SONGS Dismantlement Update by San Onofre Decommissioning*Solutions*	September 5
4Q CEP Regular Meeting SONGS Dismantlement Update and Related Trust Fund Status	November 7
CEP Member Consultation Meeting	December 10

SAN ONOFRE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PANEL

SPENT FUEL SOLUTIONS

Thank you
Stay safe and healthy

Acronyms

ACM	Asbestos Containing Material
AHSM	Advanced Horizontal Storage Module
ALARA	As Low As Reasonably Achievable
AMP	Aging Management Program
AREOR	Annual Radiological Environmental Operating Report
ASME	American Society of Mechanical Engineering
C&D	Cold & Dark
CAP	Corrective Action Program
CCC	California Coastal Commission
CBS	Core Barrel Support
CCR	Current Conditions Report
CDP	Coastal Development Permit
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CEC	California Energy Commission; Cavity Enclosure Container
CEP	Community Engagement Panel
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH&S	Corporate Health & Safety
CIS	Consolidated Interim Storage
CNO	Chief Nuclear Officer
CPEN	Camp Pendleton
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
CSLC	California State Lands Commission
D&D	Decontamination & Dismantlement
DA	Decommissioning Agreement; Decommissioning Agent
DCE	Decommissioning Cost Estimate
DGC	Decommissioning General Contractor
DGCL	Derived Concentration Guideline Levels
DID	Defense-in-Depth
DOE	Department of Energy
DoN	Department of Navy

DOR	Division of Responsibility
DPH	Department of Public Health
DSAR	Defueled Safety Analysis Report (replaces FSAR)
DSC	Dry Storage Canister
D-SEIS	Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
D-SER	Draft Safety Evaluation Report
DSFM	Division of Spent Fuel Management (NRC)
DTF	Decommissioning Trust Fund
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EAL	Emergency Action Level
EH&S	Environmental, Health & Safety
EIR	Environmental Impact Report (under CEQA)
EIS	Environmental Impact Study (under NEPA)
EP	Emergency Plan
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPRI	Electric Power Research Institute
ERO	Emergency Response Organization
ET	Experts Team
FA	Fuel Assembly
FEIR	Final Environmental Impact Report
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FSAR	Final Safety Analysis Report
FSS	Final Status Surveys
FSSR	Final Status Survey Report
FTO	Fuel Transfer Operations; Field Training Officer
GTCC	Greater Than Class C (Waste)
HAZ	Heat Affected Zone
HI-TRAC	Holtec International Transfer Cask
Hi-PORT	Holtec International Transporter
HI-STORM	Holtec International Storage Module
HSM	Horizontal Storage Module

Acronyms

IOEP	ISFSI-Only Emergency Plan
IPC	Interjurisdictional Planning Committee
IRMS	ISFSI Radiation Monitoring System
ISA	Industrial Security Area
ISFSI	Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation
LAR	License Amendment Request
LLRW	Low-Level Radioactive Waste
LOED	Large Organism Exclusion Device
LTP	License Termination Plan
MARSSIM	Multi-Agency Radiation Survey Site & Investigation Manual
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPC	Multi-Purpose Canister
NDTF	Nuclear Decommissioning Trust Fund
NEI	Nuclear Energy Institute
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NOV/IO	Notice of Violation and Investigative Order
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPP	Nuclear Power Plant
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
NTP	Notice to Proceed
NUREG	Nuclear Regulation
NUHOMS	Nutech Horizontal Modular Storage
OC	Orange County
O&M	Operation & Maintenance
OE	Operating Experience
OSHA	Occupational Safety & Health Administration
PA	Protected Area
PDEP	Permanently Defueled Emergency Plan
PDTS	Permanently Defueled Technical Specifications
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PSDAR	Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report

Q&A	Questions and Answers
RECP	Radioactive Effluents Control Program
REIR	Request for Environmental Impact Review
REMP	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program
RP	Radiological Protection
RPV	Reactor Pressure Vessel
RSI	Request for Supplemental Information
RV	Reactor Vessel
RVI	Reactor Vessel Internals
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCE	Southern California Edison
SD	San Diego
SDDEH	San Diego Department of Environmental Health
SDS	SONGS Decommissioning*Solutions*
SFP	Spent Fuel Pool; Support Foundation Pad (ISFSI)
SFPI	Spent Fuel Pool Island
SLC	State Lands Commission (CA)
SLR	Sea Level Rise
STP	Sewage Treatment Plant
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
T&D	Transmission & Distribution
TBA	To Be Announced
TBD	To Be Determined
TEDE	Total Effective Dose Equivalent
UFSAR	Updated Final Safety Analysis Report
UGS	Upper Guide Structure
UT	Ultrasonic Testing
UU	Unrestricted Use
VCT	Vertical Canister Transporter
VLLW	Very Low-Level Waste
VRS	Volume Reduction Station
WNR	Wheeler North Reef (Marine Mitigation)
WHOI	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

APPENDIX

Yucca Mountain Update

- After decades of study and licensing activities, work on Yucca Mountain ceased in 2011, and subsequent attempts to restart these efforts have failed to progress
- During a 2021 confirmation hearing, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm stated, “The administration opposes the use of Yucca Mountain for the storage of nuclear waste”
- The Biden administration instead supports a consent-based approach to siting a repository, consistent with the Blue Ribbon Commission’s recommendations
- Yucca Mountain remains the only spent nuclear fuel repository site currently authorized under federal law despite this lack of support
- Pursuing a consent-based repository siting process would require amendments to the NWPA that allow for the study of additional sites
- Consent-based siting would not necessarily exclude Yucca Mountain, but community consent could be required to move forward