



Policy Principles for Used Nuclear Fuel Management

The industry supports an integrated used nuclear fuel management strategy, consisting of ten basic elements:

1. A new management and disposal organization outside the Department of Energy (DOE) dedicated solely to executing a high-level radioactive waste program and empowered with the authority and resources to succeed.
2. Access to the Nuclear Waste Fund for its intended purpose, without reliance on the annual appropriations process but with appropriate Congressional oversight.
3. Develop a consolidated storage facility for used nuclear fuel and DOE's high-level radioactive waste in a willing host community and state. Used fuel from shutdown commercial reactor sites without an operating reactor should have priority when shipping commercial used fuel to the storage facility. Assigning priority to shutdown plants shall not affect the right to damages for DOE's failure to perform absent such priority.
4. In parallel with developing a consolidated storage facility, complete the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) review of the Yucca Mountain repository license application, followed by construction and operation of the repository and developing a second geologic repository, if necessary.
5. Research, development and demonstration on improved or advanced fuel cycle technologies to close the nuclear fuel cycle, thereby potentially reducing the volume, heat and toxicity of byproducts placed in the repository, recognizing that a geologic repository will be required for all fuel cycles. All funds for this RD&D must come from DOE's budget and not the Nuclear Waste Fund. In addition to RD&D, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) should develop a regulatory framework for the licensing of advanced fuel cycle technologies.
6. A legislative determination that, for the period after the licensed term for reactor operation until removal for disposal, no consideration of environmental impacts of used nuclear fuel storage shall be required by the NRC in connection with any reactor licensing.
7. The Nuclear Waste Fund (NWF) fee should not be raised above \$0 unless (1) the annual expenses for the program's ongoing projects exceed the annual investment income on the NWF and (2) the projected life-cycle cost demonstrates that the fee must be reinstated to achieve full cost recovery over the life of the program.
8. Communities and states hosting the Yucca Mountain repository and/or consolidated storage facilities shall be eligible for benefits. The Nuclear Waste Fund can be used for these benefits if they are reasonable and do not result in an excessive increase in overall program costs.
9. Standard contract holders should not be required to waive their right to recover damages or settle claims resulting from DOE's breach of contract as a condition of the federal government accepting used nuclear fuel for consolidated storage or permanent disposal.
10. The industry will fulfill its one-time fee obligations consistent with the provisions in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.