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FAST FACTS ON USED NUCLEAR FUEL



01

Used nuclear fuel is a solid and is typically made up of ceramic pellets and stacked in hollow metal rods called fuel rods. Fuel rods are bundled into fuel assemblies.

The U.S. nuclear power industry produces 2,000 tons of used nuclear fuel per year. That fuel generates enough energy to power almost every single-family home in the U.S.



02

Used nuclear fuel from power reactors is safely and securely stored at close to 75 sites in more than 30 States.



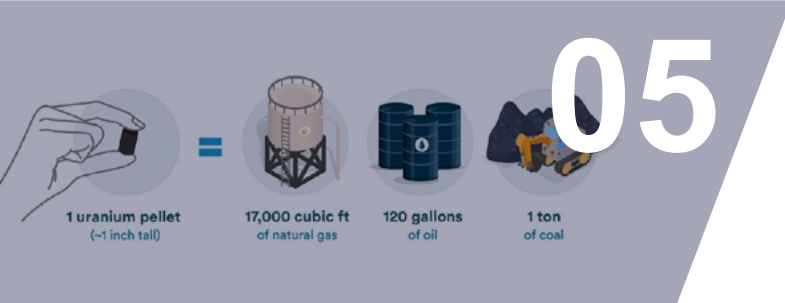
03

Since 1957, more than 4,000 cask shipments of used nuclear fuel have been transported within the U.S. without any injury or loss of life caused by the radioactive nature of the material transported.



04

DOE will use the Atlas railcar, pictured here, for future used nuclear fuel shipments.



05

A single pellet of nuclear fuel produces as much energy as 17,000 cubic feet of natural gas, 120 gallons of oil, or 1 ton of coal.

The term "used nuclear fuel" is intended to be synonymous with the term "spent nuclear fuel" as used and defined in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended, and the Standard Contract for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and/or High-Level Radioactive Waste (10 CFR Part 961).