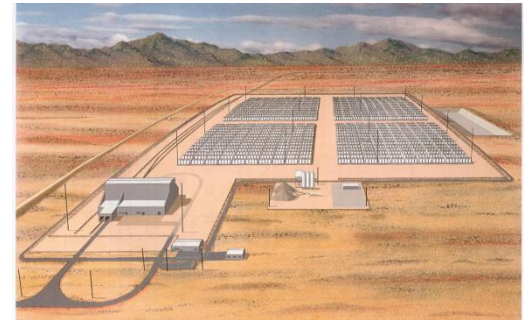


# Consolidated Storage for Spent Nuclear Fuel from Decommissioned Commercial Sites



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**Transportation and Storage Subcommittee**

**Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future**

Wiscasset, Maine

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# It Makes Good Sense in All Disposition Scenarios

- Geologic Repository >20 yrs
- Recycling/reprocessing ~20 to 50 yrs
- Continued on-site storage indefinite

Can we wait another 20 years?

Cost vs benefit heavily favors consolidation

# What is Size of the Problem?

- 10 shutdown single unit reactors at 9 sites in 8 States (ME, MA, CT, IL, CA, OR, MI, WI)
- 2813 Metric tons
- Removing this used fuel would reduce the number of commercial used fuel storage sites from 72 to 63
- There may be other special needs at other active reactor sites

# 2008 DOE Report to Congress

- House Appropriations Committee tasking
- DOE emphasized it lacked authority
- Even if it had authority it favored repository as being ready almost as soon, less distraction
- Total cost for construction, transport, storage through 2027 was \$743 M in 2009 dollars
- Peak cash need \$123 M in 2015 (sixth year)
- Assumed NWF would be used

# Impression of 2008 DOE Report

- Answered the mail with no enthusiasm
- No contact with industry
- No contact with any of the nine communities
- Management was against such a plan
  - There would be siting opposition
  - Would divert resources from Yucca
  - Likely to complicate “oldest first” contracts
  - Based on belief that Yucca is a better solution

# Cost in Perspective

- Government (taxpayers) will eventually pick up the cost of decommissioned storage
- Assuming the DOE estimate of \$743 M is close to the mark, it compares to one year of total fees paid into the Nuclear Waste Fund
- To get started would take nominal amounts for several years for planning

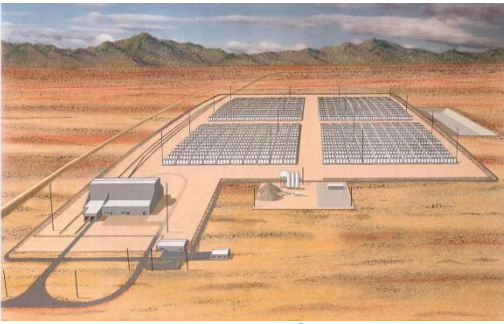
# Who Should Be in Charge?



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- DOE – Perhaps EM
  - OCRWM disbanded, EM has project management and community liaison skills, just lacks mission
- Public-Private partnership
  - Industry initiative with potential host community
  - Still requires DOE involvement
- A new Used Fuel Management “Fedcorp”
  - A good startup mission
  - Not in existence yet, slowest to start





# The PFS Example

- An industry initiative to take matters into their own hands
- Took 7 years to get licensed, strong opposition
- Proposed up to 40,000 MT of storage
- 2005 proposal to store up to capacity for \$60 M per year— as early as 2008
- Project stymied by other federal agencies
- July 2010 Court decision to reconsider

# Benefits

- Return 9 sites to productive use
- Improved security at optimal state of art site
- Build public confidence in safe transportation
- Creates some jobs at receiving site
- Likely reduces costs to taxpayers
  - Presumed economies of scale vs 9 sites
  - Reduced legal fees for all concerned
- Greater peace of mind in communities
- Demonstrates government can do something

# Conventional Nuclear Wisdom

“A nuclear accident anywhere in the world will hurt the U.S. nuclear industry”

It could also be considered that a security episode at any spent fuel storage site would be considered a source of anxiety at all sites

- NAS storage safety and security study of 2006
- GAO Reports of 2003

# Downside

- Need for support or at least neutrality at receiving site – Has Yucca set a precedent?
- Some access and/or handling challenges at the present storage sites
- Possible disputes with owners with older fuel
- Likely requires legislative authorization
- Congress has become accustomed to using the fee revenue for other things

# What is the “Ask?”

Please consider sending an initial report **now** to the Secretary, before the FY 2012 Budget and legislative proposals are set, indicating that the Commission sees a need for early action by DOE to help get started with consolidating spent fuel from decommissioned sites. You can add that the Commission sees no conflict between central storage for this small quantity and any disposition strategy the Commission is likely to recommend.

DOE can develop its own plan to do this or be cooperative with others to achieve the same goal.

# Why Should You Act Now?

- The FY 2011 Budget requested zero for NWF
- DOE is likely to request little or no budget for NWF until the Commission issues its final report, possibly not before FY 2013
- A pro-active DOE might even insert a “wedge” in the FY 2012 budget to provide for a small consolidation program or as a contingency for the Commission’s initial resource needs
- The Deficit Commission is lurking



**“This could be like the canary in the coal mine.”**

**-- John Rowe**

**July 7, 2010**