

Introduction to Consent-Based Siting

For Federal Consolidated Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel



Office of
NUCLEAR ENERGY



What is Consent-Based Siting?

Consent-based siting is an approach to siting facilities that prioritizes the participation and needs of people and communities and seeks their willing and informed consent to accept a project in their community. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is using a consent-based siting approach to identify one or more sites for federal consolidated interim storage facilities for commercial spent nuclear fuel.

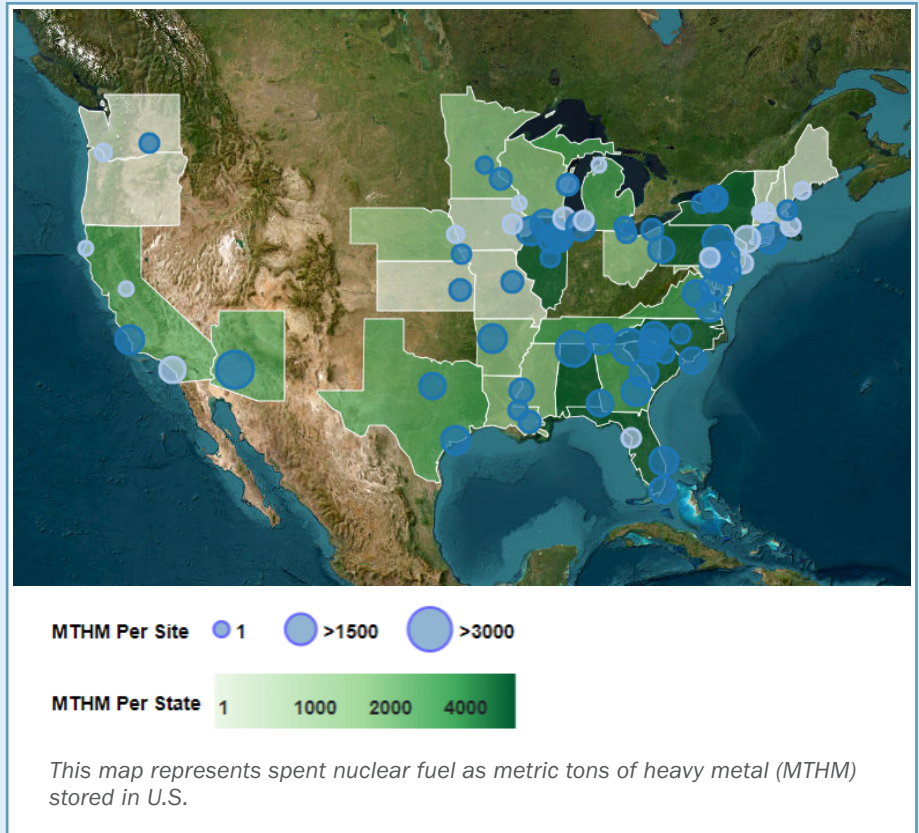
Why is DOE Pursuing Federal Consolidated Interim Storage?

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act assigns DOE the responsibility for managing spent nuclear fuel. Congress has directed and funded DOE to move forward with identifying one or more sites for a federal consolidated interim storage facility using a consent-based approach. This is an initial step toward DOE's development of a sustainable approach to managing the Nation's spent nuclear fuel, which will eventually include permanent disposal.

How Does Consent-Based Siting Benefit Americans?

Consolidated interim storage of spent nuclear fuel in the United States could provide several advantages, including promoting new jobs and economic opportunities and reducing the burden on taxpayers who are paying for the operations, security, and safety activities associated with storing spent nuclear fuel at reactor sites nationwide.

Spent Nuclear Fuel Stored Across the U.S.



How Will Communities Participate in the Consent-Based Siting Process?

The consent-based siting process involves a phased sequence of activities that communities can participate in:



Planning and Capacity Building



Site-Screening and Assessment



Negotiation and Implementation

A variety of events and activities may support interaction with interested parties throughout the process of identifying and evaluating a potential location for a storage facility. These activities may include public meetings, workshops, site visits, community events, one-on-one interviews, surveys, and more.

Subject to Congressional funding, DOE's approach will provide resources to communities that choose to engage with DOE across all phases of the process. DOE will work with communities interested in formally volunteering to be considered to host a facility. Participation is voluntary. Communities may enter the consent-based siting process at any phase.



Contact Us

For more information, please visit the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy Consent-Based Siting webpage at energy.gov/consentbasedsiting, or contact the consent-based siting team at consentbasedsiting@hq.doe.gov or at (301) 903-3301.