



U.S.NRC
UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Protecting People and the Environment

Long-Term Waste Confidence Update

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Long-Term Update

- Draft Report, “Background and Preliminary Assumptions for an Environmental Impact Statement—Long-Term Waste Confidence Update”
- Elements of the Update
 - Draft environmental impact statement
 - Draft Waste Confidence Decision
 - Proposed Waste Confidence Rule based on the EIS and Decision, if applicable

Report Overview

Background and assumptions report is first step in process

- Waste Confidence Background
- The NRC's Regulatory Role and Waste Confidence
- General Methodology and Scope of Impacts
- Assumptions and Scenarios for Analysis
- Process and Opportunities for Public Input
- Ongoing NRC Staff Activities

Report is available at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/public-involvement.html>

and in ADAMS at accession number ML11340A141

Submit comments on long-term Waste Confidence update to

WCO Outreach@nrc.gov

Background: Origin of Waste Confidence

In 1979, US Court of Appeals for DC Circuit required NRC to make findings:

- Whether there is reasonable assurance that an offsite disposal solution will be available by the expiration of the plants' operating licenses; and
- If not, whether there is reasonable assurance that the spent nuclear fuel can be stored safely at the sites beyond those dates.

Waste Confidence Decision and Rule

Decision and Rule established 1984, updated in 1990 and 2010

- Decision composed of 5 findings and their bases
- Rule established to fulfill part of NRC's NEPA obligations when licensing nuclear power plants.
- Decision provides basis for Rule and is generic (applies to all plants)

State of New York, et al. v. USNRC, (Case No.11-1045), and consolidated cases, challenging the 2010 Waste Confidence Rule and related consideration of environmental impacts.

Regulatory Role and Waste Confidence

- NRC is a regulatory agency
- NRC regulates storage through a comprehensive program
- Waste Confidence conveys the Commission's conclusions that safe storage and disposal are feasible and will be available
- Waste confidence is not
 - a regulatory program
 - a specific licensing action

Waste Confidence EIS

General Scope and Methodology

- Preliminary assumed storage period for analysis: on the order of 200 years
- Important aspects of methodology
 - Composite, generic sites
 - Generic impacts
 - Range of impacts in NRC EISs
 - Qualitative and quantitative analyses
- EIS will take advantage of information from relevant EISs and technical activities on extended storage and transportation
- Commission has not yet determined whether this a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Commission directed staff to prepare EIS because of public interest.

Waste Confidence EIS

Assumptions and Scenarios

Some major assumptions:

- Nuclear power continues in same proportion as today
- Storage continues to be a fully regulated activity
- All scenarios include transportation to disposal site
- Conditions 200 years from now (e.g., transportation infrastructure) similar to current conditions

Preliminary scenarios for comparing impacts:

- Onsite (at-reactor) storage
- Regional storage
- Centralized storage
- Combination + some reprocessing

Timeline

April 2012: Finalize current report, addressing comments

2012-2013: Develop preliminary information to support identification of EIS scope

2013: Initiate formal NEPA process: announce the NRC's intent to develop the EIS

2013-2016: Hold public scoping under NEPA, develop draft EIS, possible draft decision, and possible proposed rule.

2017-2019: If necessary, develop and publish final Waste Confidence EIS, decision and rule.



The screenshot shows the U.S. NRC website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, FAQ, GLOSSARY, FACILITY LOCATOR, WHAT'S NEW, SITE HELP, INDEX A-Z, CONTACT US, BROWSE ALOUD, and EMAIL UPDATES. Below this is a search bar and a 'REPORT A SAFETY CONCERN' button. A main navigation menu includes NUCLEAR REACTORS, NUCLEAR MATERIALS, RADIOACTIVE WASTE, NUCLEAR SECURITY, PUBLIC MEETINGS & INVOLVEMENT, NRC LIBRARY, and ABOUT NRC. The current page is 'Spent Fuel Storage > Public Involvement', as indicated by the breadcrumb trail. The left sidebar contains a 'SPENT FUEL STORAGE' menu with options: Spent Fuel Pools, Dry Cask Storage, Regulations, Guidance, and Communications, Licensing, Oversight, and Public Involvement (which is highlighted). Below the menu are two images: one showing spent fuel casks and another showing a spent fuel pool. A 'Spotlight' section at the bottom left has a 'CHOOSE A SECTION' dropdown. The main content area features the title 'Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation – Public Involvement' and a list of 'On this page:' items: 'Upcoming Opportunities for Public Involvement' and 'Public Meeting Archive'. A paragraph explains that the NRC holds meetings and publishes documents for public comment. Below this is a section for 'Upcoming Opportunities for Public Involvement' with a table (not fully visible) and a note about the ADAMS system. At the bottom, there is a note about non-HTML file formats.

www.nrc.gov > Radioactive Waste > Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel > Public Involvement
Provide comments on report by February 17, 2012, to WCO Outreach@nrc.gov