



Waste Confidence



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Institute of Nuclear Materials Management – Spent Fuel Seminar
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Outline

- What is Waste Confidence?
- Evolution
- 2012 Court of Appeals Decision
- Impacts
- Path Forward
- Status

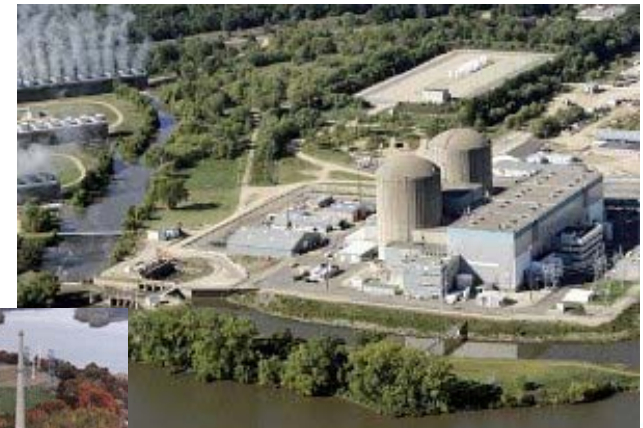
Waste Confidence

- Generic “Findings” on Spent Fuel Storage and Repository Availability
 - Safety and environmental findings
 - Decision and rule (10 CFR 51.23)
- Relevant to: New and operating reactor licensing; storage licensing



Waste Confidence (cont.)

- 1979 Court of Appeals decision
- First Commission decision in 1984
- Five findings
- Periodic review



1984 Findings

- Reasonable assurance that:
 - Disposal in a mined geologic repository is feasible
 - One or more repositories available by 2007-2009 and sufficient capacity will be available within 30 years beyond reactor operating license
 - High level waste and spent fuel will be managed in a safe manner
 - Spent fuel can be stored safely and without significant environmental impact for at least 30 years
 - Safe independent onsite or offsite storage capacity available.

Finding #2 Evolution



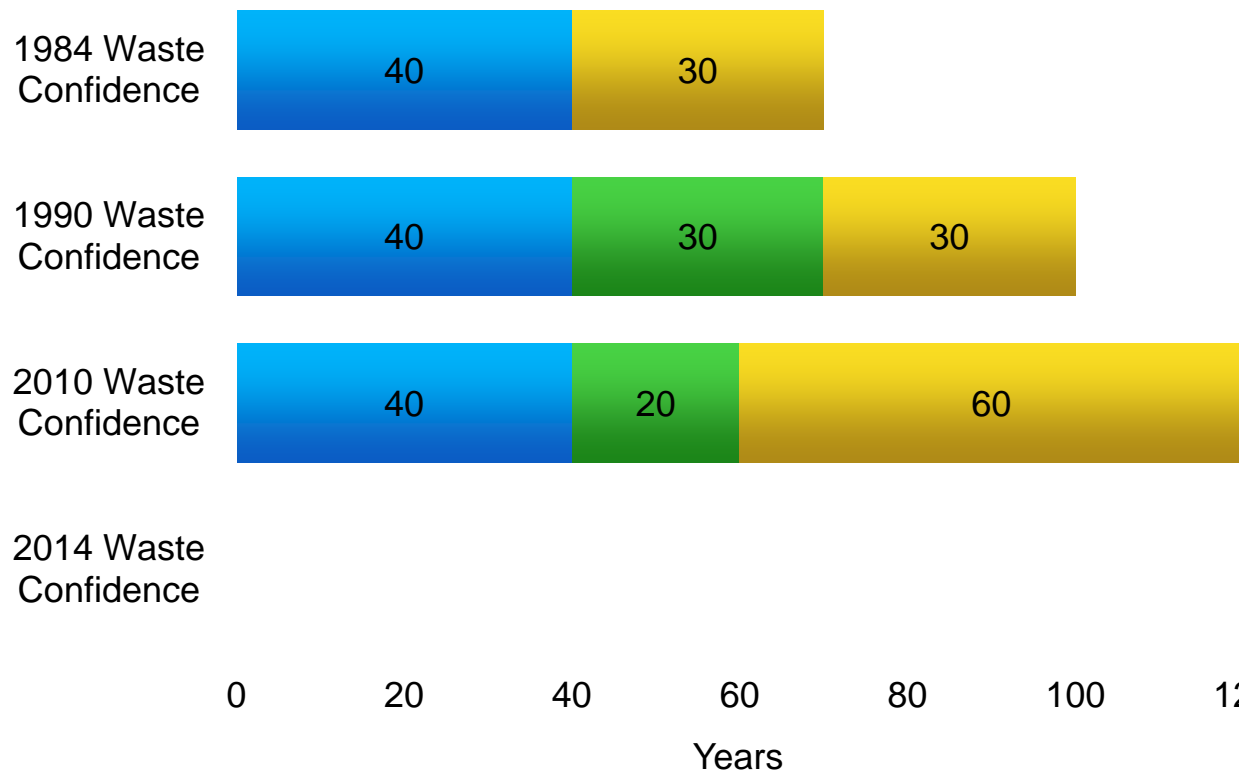
1984 - One or more repositories available 2007-2009 and sufficient capacity will be available within 30 years beyond reactor operating license

1990 – repository will be available within the first quarter of the 21st century...

2010 – sufficient mined geologic capacity will be available when “necessary”

Finding #4 Evolution

■ Licensed Life ■ Renewal ■ Post-Licensed Life Storage



Court of Appeals Remand

- September 2011 challenge
- Decision on June 8, 2012
- Three defects
 - No repository
 - Spent fuel pool leaks
 - Spent fuel pool fires
- Environmental process



Impact

- Link to reactor and storage licensing
- No final licenses until remand resolved
- Licensing and adjudication continues



Path Forward

- Commission approval of plan
- Generic environmental statement and rule within 24 months
- Ample opportunity for public comment
- Special directorate

Status

- Directorate formed and operating
- EIS scoping October 25 – January 2
 - Four public meetings
 - ~ 700 commenters (~1200 comments)
 - > 2000 requests to re-notice
- Development of Draft GEIS and Rule underway
 - Leverage past efforts
 - Goal : full and fair discussion of impacts
 - Draft for comment - September 2013

Development Schedule



Formal
NEPA
Process
(Public
Scoping
)
10/12-
12/12

Draft EIS, Draft WC
Decision,
and Proposed WC Rule
9/13

Public
Comment
9/13-
11/13

Final EIS, Final WC Decision,
and Final WC Rule
8/14



Pre-scoping Approach

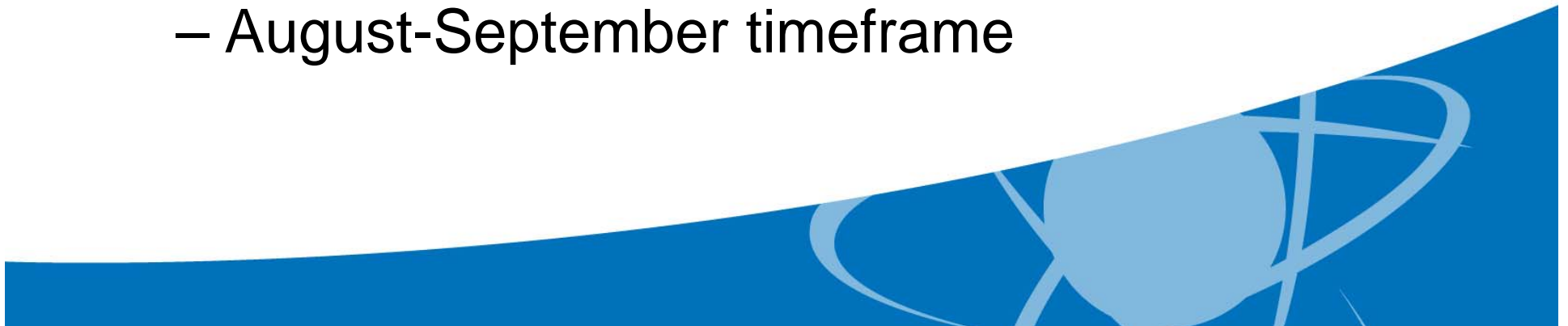


- No Action Alternative
 - No waste confidence rulemaking
- Scenarios
 - Storage until a repository becomes available at the *middle* of the century
 - Storage until a repository becomes available at the *end* of the century
 - Continued storage in the event a repository is *not available*

Near-Term Activities



- Issue draft Scoping Summary Report - March
- Complete proposed draft GEIS and Rule for Commission consideration – August
- Begin planning for public meetings on draft
 - 6-8 public meetings across country
 - August-September timeframe



Resources

- Commission Press Release:
<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1225/ML12250A653.pdf>
- Staff Paper, Staff Requirements Memorandum, Commission Votes:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/commission/comm-secy/2012/>
- Federal Register Notice – Environmental Impact Statement Scoping:
<https://federalregister.gov/a/2012-26295>.
- Waste Confidence Web Site:
<http://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/wcd.html>