

INMM/US NIC Spent Fuel Mgmt. Seminar

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2020 Spent Fuel Political Landscape: Inside & Outside the Beltway



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Outline

- I. About the NWSC
- II. Inside the Beltway: Politics & Inaction, Extended Version
- III. Outside the Beltway: Costs of Inaction Mount
- IV. What's Next? How Can We Spur Action Inside the Beltway?

Section I

About the NWSC

NWSC Overview

- Formation & Membership (Outside the Beltway)
- Member-driven and member-led
- Mission: *Spur federal action to timely remove and dispose of commercial nuclear waste & protect electric customers.*
- Activities:
 - Develop cohesive messages on behalf of diverse and credible coalition
 - Coordinate with other key stakeholder organizations
 - Communicate to Congress, federal agencies, stakeholders, the media
 - Inform members about relevant issues and events and provide opportunity for quick and effective input
- Non-partisan; Not pro- or anti-nuclear

NWSC Key Positions

- **Permanent Disposal** – Yucca Mountain License App
- **Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS)** – Pilot CIS with Priority for Shutdown Plants
- **Transportation** – Infrastructure + Assistance for Preparations by States & Tribes
- **Funding Reform** – Sustainable Access to Nuclear Waste Fund
- **Governance Reform** – Re-establish OCRWM; Independent Organization

Section II

Inside the Beltway: Politics & Inaction, Extended Version

Administration

- **Admin FY 2018, 2019, 2020 Budget Requests**
 - \$ for DOE to restart YM app process and initiate “robust” interim storage
 - \$ for NRC for YM licensing
- **Secretary Perry, Secretary Brouillette + NE-1 Baranwal**
 - Positive statements, YM tours, etc.
- **DOE appears to be exploring avenues, policy shifts**
 - SNF reprocessing/recycling
 - Queue issues/oldest fuel first
 - NWPA monitored retrievable storage (MRS) provisions

116th Congress: Authorizations

➤ **Ramifications of Midterm Elections**

- House Leadership changes
- New Senator from NV

➤ **Congressional Examination of Issues**

- May 2019 Senate EPW Committee Hearing on NWPAA Draft (S. 2917 later introduced Nov. 2019)
- June 2019 House E&C Committee Hearing on NWPAA (H.R. 2699 introduced May 2019) and related bills
- June 2019 Senate ENR Committee Hearing on NWAA (S. 1234 introduced April 2019)

116th Congress: Appropriations

House EWD Approach

- \$ for CIS.
- Committee Amendment on YM that failed.
- No bill language but high-level committee report language.

Senate EWD Approach

- \$ for CIS.
- Floor Amendment on YM that never came.
- Substantive bill language (S.2470) and inconsistent committee report language.

Senate EWD Approps (S. 2470)

- **No funding for Permanent Disposal/YM**
- **Concerning provisions re Authorizing & Funding CIS**
 - Did not align with committee report, raising questions about intent and effect (e.g., “federal” vs. “private” CIS; access to CIS limited to “sites without an operating reactor” vs. “priority” given to such sites).
 - Would fail to move forward on CIS and permanent disposal in parallel (“Notwithstanding” language would diminish statutory YM licensing process and NWRPA recognition of need for disposal).
 - Would mandate consent-based siting requirements (may prevent flexibility and result in needless bureaucracy, more costs, further delay).
 - Would expand Congressional authority to tap NWF for CIS without addressing funding concerns (increasing potential for fee restart).

Last-Minute Input & EWD Results

- **Dec. 5 NWSC Letter** to Senate EWD Appropriators re S.2470 (also shared with House EWD Appropriators)
- **Dec. 5 Joint Letter by 24 House Members (led by CA Reps. Matsui & Levin)** to Approps Comm. Chair & EWD Subcomm. Chair calling for DOE to be given direction on CIS in addition to \$25 M
- **Dec. 11 Joint Letter by 7 House Members (Reps. McNerney, Lujan, Shimkus et al.)** to House Speaker, Minority Leader & Approps Leaders – opposed used fuel authorization language within Approps bill
- **FY20 EWD Approps Results** – No funds for YM licensing or CIS

2020 Expectations

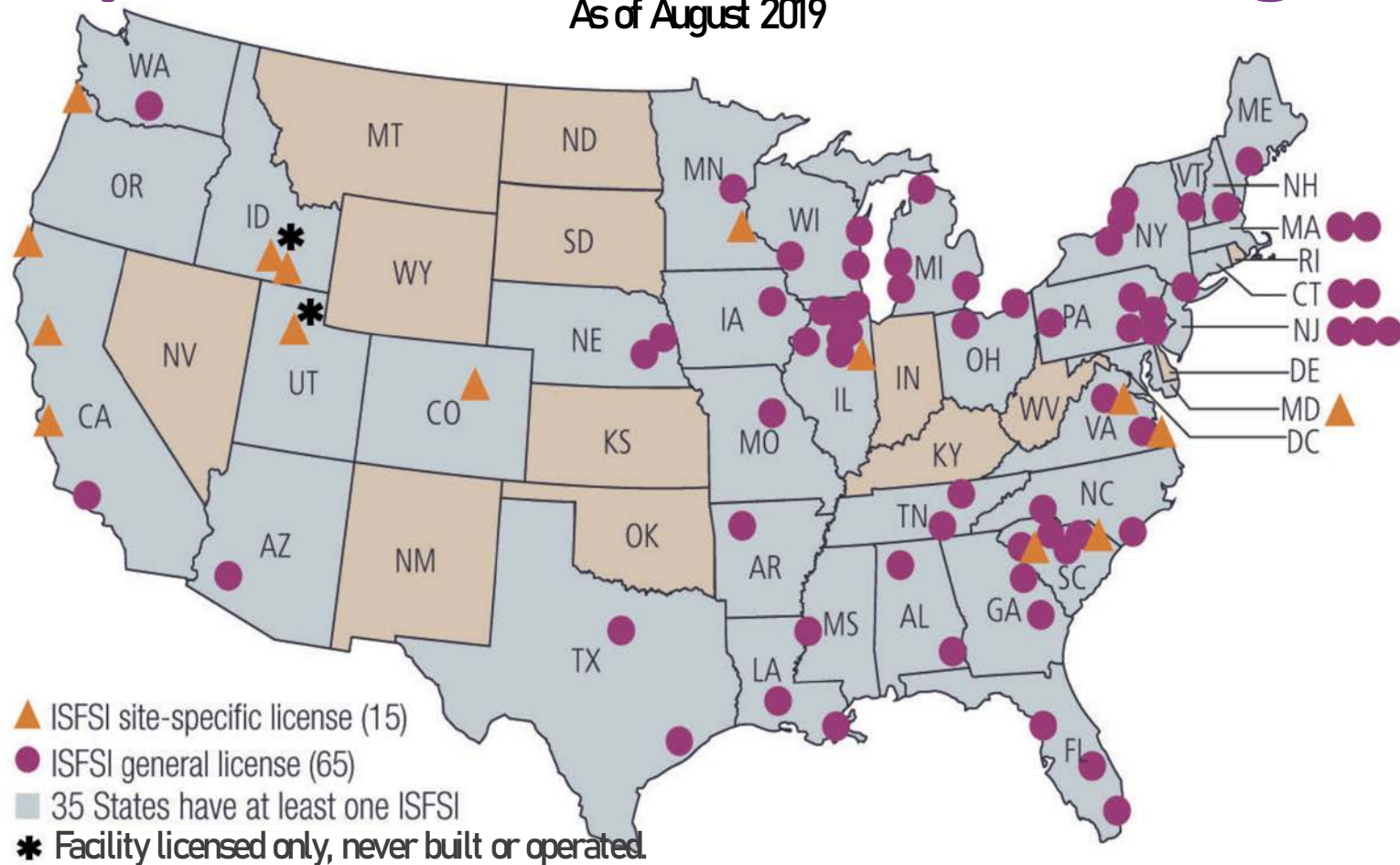
- **Presidential Election Year**
- **Hyper-Political Environment**
- **Authorizations**
 - Expect same challenges to advancement of integrated NW management solutions
- **Appropriations**
 - Expect same challenges to funding key elements of integrated NW management program

Section III

Outside the Beltway: Costs of Inaction Mount

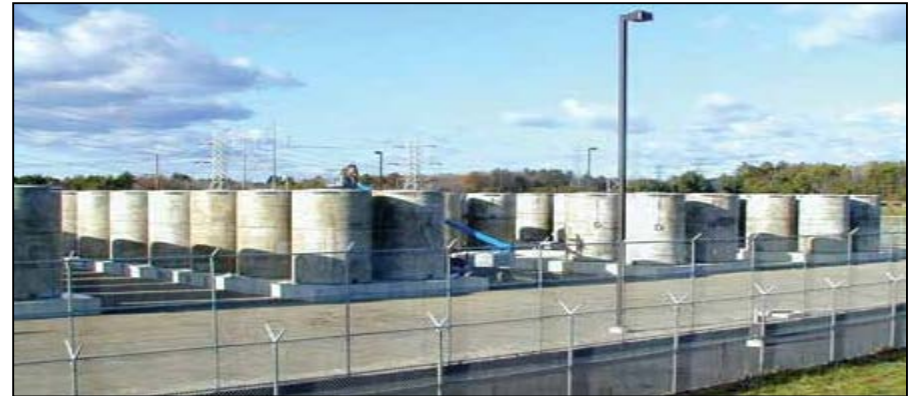
Spent Nuclear Fuel in Storage

As of August 2019



Costs of Inaction: Communities

- **Host community concerns:**
 - SNF won't be removed
 - Never consented to indefinite storage at sites
 - Casks not licensed for indefinite storage
- **Shutdown site host community *additional* concerns:**
 - Storage preventing other economic uses of property
 - Shrinking tax base



Permanently/Announced Shutdown Sites



1. Big Rock
Charlevoix, MI

2. Beaver Valley
Shippingport, PA
Announced Shutdown, 2021

3. Connecticut Yankee
Haddam Neck, CT

4. Crystal River
Crystal River, FL

5. Diablo Canyon
Avila Beach, CA
Announced Shutdown, 2025

6. Duane Arnold
Palo, IA
Announced Shutdown, 2020

7. Fort Calhoun
Blair, NE

8. Humboldt Bay
Eureka, CA

9. Indian Point
Buchanan, NY
Announced Shutdown, 2021

10. Kewaunee
Kewaunee, WI

11. La Crosse
La Crosse, WI

12. Maine Yankee
Wiscasset, ME

13. Oyster Creek
Leeds Point, NJ

14. Palisades
Covert, MI
Announced Shutdown, 2022

15. Pilgrim
Plymouth, MA

16. Rancho Seco
Herald, CA

17. San Onofre
Pendleton, CA

18. Three Mile Island
Middletown, PA

19. Trojan
Ranier, OR

20. Vermont Yankee
Vernon, VT

21. Yankee Rowe
Rowe, MA

22. Zion
Zion, IL

Credit: Decommissioning Plant Coalition

Costs of Inaction: Electric Customers

- Customers paid \$.001/kWh of nuclear-generated electricity into NWF (approx. \$750 M/year) through May 2014, when collections stopped per court order.
- Fee collections + accumulated interest (current rate approx. \$1.5 B/year) + outstanding pre-1983 fees = **Approx. \$52 B in NWF receipts** as of Sept. 30, 2019.
- Spent on disposal program = **Approx. \$11 B.**
- **NWF balance = Approx. \$41 B** as of Sept. 30, 2019.
- Additional costs for utility dry cask storage, security, etc.



Costs of Inaction: All US Taxpayers

- Damages for unmet obligation (breach of contract) paid, or to be paid in future, from US Treasury's Judgment Fund
 - **Over \$8 B paid** as of 9/30/19
 - About \$0.8 B paid annually over past several years
 - **\$28.5 B estimated remaining future liability** as of 9/30/19
 - Assumes FY 2021 restart of licensing activities
 - Uses timeframes in NWPA and YM License Application
 - **Costing U.S. taxpayers and increasing federal deficit \$2.2 million per day.**



Section IV

What's Next? How Can We Spur Action Inside the Beltway?

Continue Calling on Fed Gov't

➤ Administration

- President
- Office of Management & Budget (OMB)
- Department of Energy (DOE)
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

➤ Congress: House & Senate

- Leadership
- Authorizers
- Appropriators
- Budget Leaders
- Congressional Budget Office (CBO)

➤ Courts

6 Orgs to DOE re FY21 (Dec. 2019)

Seek DOE Leadership to Request FY 2021 Funding for:

- Completion of YM license app review per NWPA;
- Implementation of pilot CIS with priority for SNF from shutdown reactors; and
- Prep for necessary transportation of SNF & HLW regardless of destination (including infrastructure and assistance to states & tribes for transportation safety and related emergency preparedness activities).



But Enlist Help from Stakeholders

- **Nuclear Industry & Associations** – Operating & Shutdown Plants, Vendors/Suppliers
- **Nuclear/Clean Energy Supporters**
- **Yucca Mtn. Supporters**
- **CIS Supporters**
- **State Officials & Associations** – Governors, AGs, PUCs, Consumer Advocates, Legislators, State Regional Groups
- **Tribal Officials**
- **Local Officials**
- **Impacted Communities**

Unite Around Key Messages & Asks

- Identify messages that resonate (avoid more divisive issues) with stakeholders outside the beltway, and develop a call to action.
- Seek opportunities to engage with key stakeholders (especially impacted communities, states, tribes) and enlist their support for call to action.
- Reach out to Congress and the Administration on behalf of broader coalition.
- Use print and social media to share key messages.

Closing Thoughts

Often, *crisis or consensus*

needed to spur . . .



*Please join NWSC in pursuing
consensus!*

For More Info



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