

Interim Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel

- What it is
- What it isn't
- Where does NARUC stand?

Present Situation

- 40,000 MT at 72 reactor sites in 35 States
- NWPA directs DOE to accept for disposal beginning in 1998
- 62 lawsuits by utilities over breach
- Damages could be in the billions
- Permanent repository continued delay now expected no earlier than 2012
- Should DOE do something in meantime?

What is Interim Storage?

- Not at reactor sites
- Not in underground repository
- For a finite duration
- It could be:
 - At Yucca Mountain
 - At a DOE site(s)
 - At a private facility, like PFS
- Licensed by NRC (possibly not at DOE)

Typical Dry Cask Storage



NARUC Summer Committee
Meetings

What Interim Storage is **NOT**

- A substitute for permanent disposal, which is mandated as national policy (NWPA)
- Without controversy once a site is picked
- Any different in terms of transportation concerns, although different routes
- Funded!

Past Efforts

- NWPA Subtitle B
 - Up to 1,900 MT
 - Separate Interim Storage Fund fees
 - At government installations
 - Governors could veto if >300 MT at a site
 - No EIS if expansion and <300 MT
 - NRC licensing not required
 - No action taken
- Unsuccessful attempts to authorize at Yucca Mountain

Past NARUC positions

- 1994 NARUC “Dialogue” favored interim storage as a cost saver
- Repeated urgings to consider at Yucca were deflected
- Nov 2000 NW Principles:
 - Better than status quo at-reactor storage
 - Not a substitute for permanent disposal
 - DOE and industry should pursue all avenues

House Proposal

- Presumes DOE storage at existing facilities can be readily expanded
- DOE would take title upon acceptance
- Start acceptance in FY 2006
- \$10M added to \$10M in budget for casks
- No indication of quantity or duration
- Sites and costs unknown
- Initial funding from NWF

Senate Position

- Sen. Domenici supports interim storage mostly because it supports reprocessing
- Domenici feels the House proposal would not get much done – it's underfunded
- Senate appropriates zero \$ for interim
- Sen. Reid poised to propose a bill that would have DOE take title to SNF at present reactor storage sites

Recommended Resolution

- Several recent studies recommend
- Support interim storage by DOE
- Costs and benefits should be weighed
- Still need permanent repository program
- NWPA does not authorize NWF for “storage” costs, per *Alabama Power* case