

Waste Confidence Update for Long-Term Storage

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Overview

- NRC will develop a proposed long-term update of the Rule and Decision, to be informed by analysis and conclusions in an environmental impact statement (EIS)
- NRC is currently working to define EIS scope, methodology and assumptions
- We want feedback regarding stakeholder input opportunities



Long-Term Update

Report on Preliminary EIS Framework

- NEPA Process and Rulemaking
 - Draft environmental impact statement
 - Draft Waste Confidence Decision
 - Proposed Waste Confidence Rule based on the EIS and Decision



General Timeline for Developing Long-Term Waste Confidence Update

2011 > 2012 > 2013 > 2014 > 2015 > 2016 > 2017 > 2018 > 2019

- Draft Report on Preliminary EIS Framework for Public Comment (Fall 2011)
 - Final Report on Preliminary EIS Framework (Spring 2012)

Start of Formal NEPA Process (Public Scoping)

Develop Draft EIS, Draft Decision, and Proposed Rule Publish for Comment

Develop Final EIS and Final Decision and Rule (if applicable)



Draft Report on Preliminary EIS Framework

- Storage scenarios
- General methodology
- Assumptions
- EIS development process



Waste Confidence EIS Preliminary Scope

Preliminary assumed storage period for analysis: on the order of 200 years

Preliminary scenarios for comparing impacts:

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



Waste Confidence EIS Preliminary Methodology

Important aspects of methodology

- Composite, generic sites
- Generic impacts
- Range of impacts in NRC EISs
- Qualitative and quantitative analyses

EIS will take advantage of relevant information from extended storage and transportation technical activities



Waste Confidence EIS Examples of Preliminary Assumptions

- Continuation of current regulatory program
- Spent fuel stored primarily in dry casks
- Accident scenarios include natural events
- Terrorism impacts are in EIS scope
- Storage of wastes from reprocessing commercial spent nuclear fuel in EIS scope
- Disposal is endpoint for all scenarios



Process and Stakeholder Engagement

Meaningful stakeholder input is essential for developing an informative, high-quality EIS and an appropriate proposed update to the Rule and Decision.

Expected opportunities to provide input:

- This fall, draft Preliminary Framework report for comment
- NEPA process

What other opportunities should NRC provide?