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Enhancing the Technical and Regulatory Bases for Extended Storage and Transportation of Spent Nuclear Fuel

NRC Public Meeting

Extended Storage and Waste Confidence: Staff Plans and Activities

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Background

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Regulating Extended Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation: Needs

- Potential changes to regulations and guidance
- Opportunity to improve integration of regulations and guidance governing the back end of the fuel cycle
- Development and application of risk-informed regulatory approaches

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Regulating Extended Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation: Approach

- Enhance technical basis for regulating extended storage of spent nuclear fuel
  - Identify technical issues associated with long-term storage
  - Perform focused research on technical issues of regulatory significance
- Identify regulatory framework revisions needed
- As appropriate,
  - revise regulations
  - develop or revise guidance
  - develop staff capabilities

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Regulating Extended Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation: Plans

- Phase 1: Identify technical and regulatory issues associated with extended spent fuel storage
- Phase 2: Perform focused research on technical issues and develop regulatory options as needed
- Phase 3: Regulatory framework revisions

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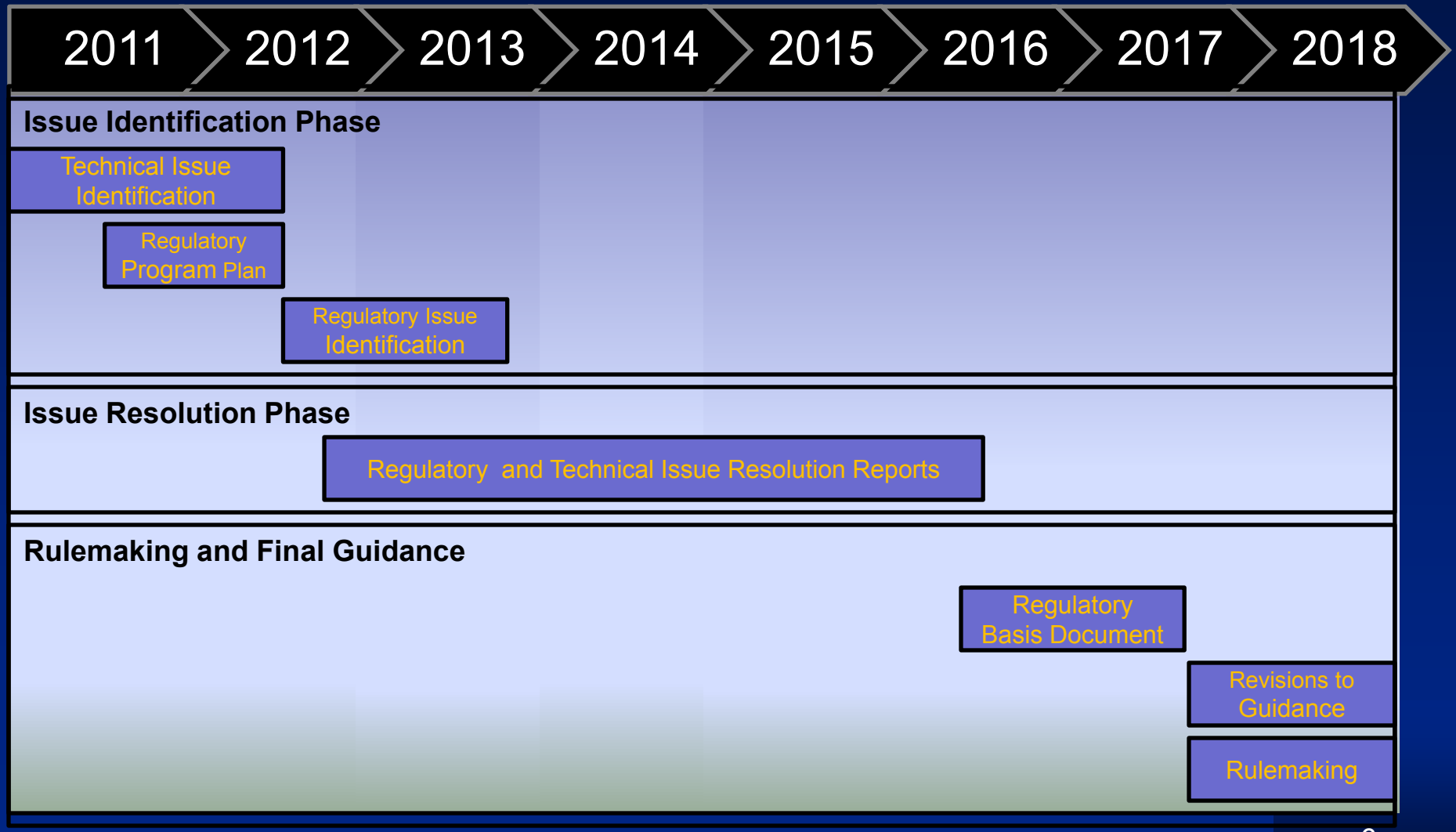
Regulating Extended Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation: Timelines



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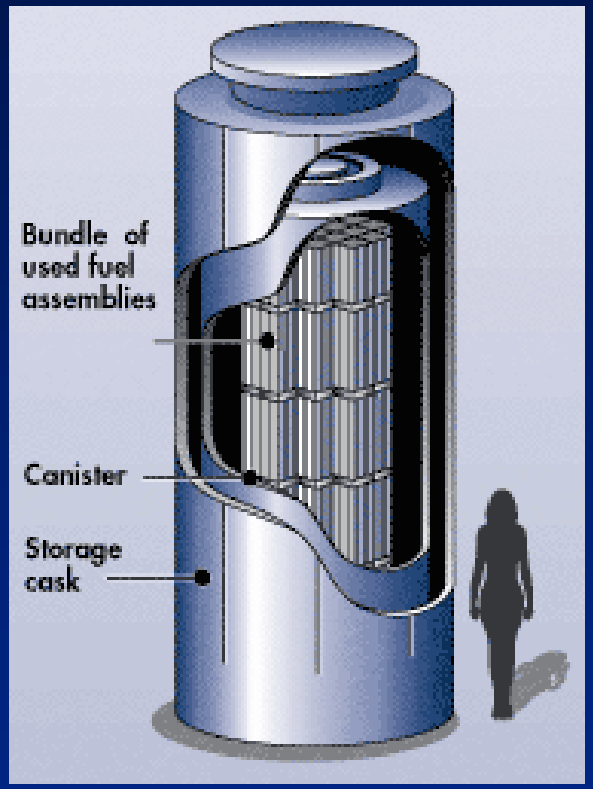
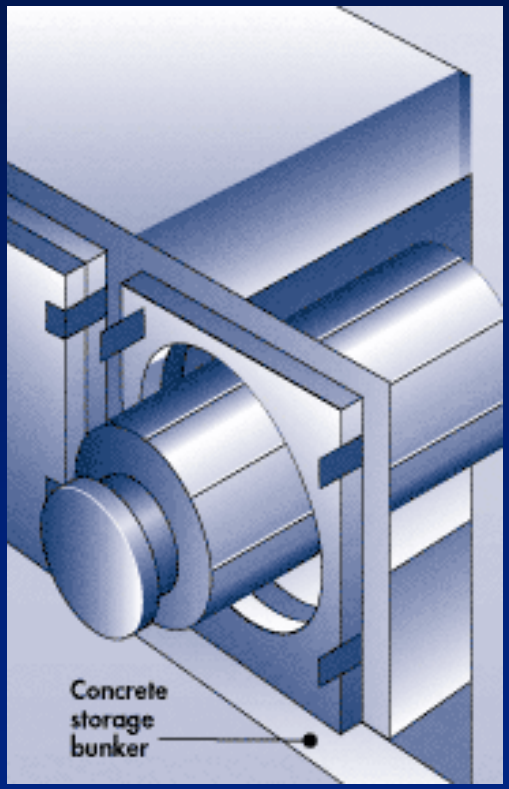
Extended Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation: Technical Issues Identification





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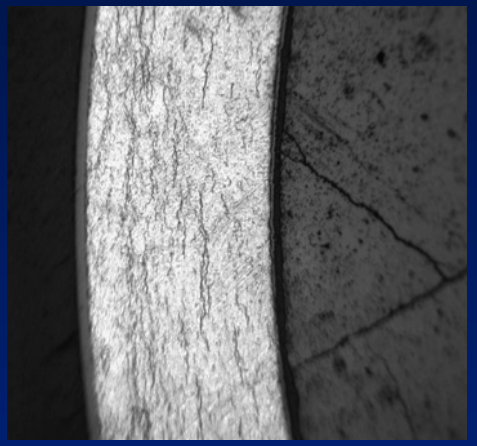
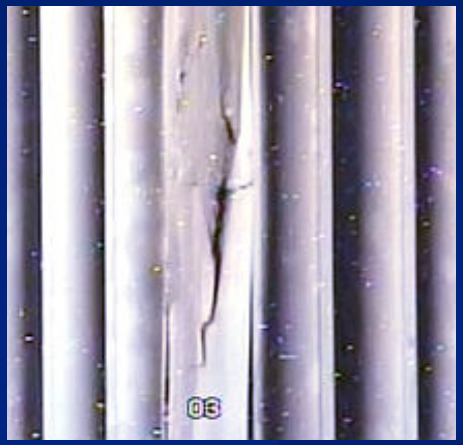
Potential Technical Issues
Cladding Integrity

- Safety Functions
  - Confinement (fission product barrier)
  - Physical integrity (retrievability and geometry control for criticality)



- Technical Challenges
  - Higher burnup levels
  - Temperature effects
  - New cladding types
  - In-situ monitoring in sealed canisters



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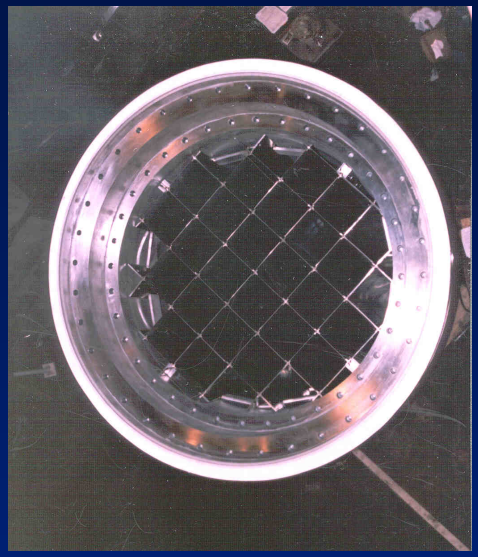
Potential Technical Issues
Canister Integrity

- Safety Functions
  - Confinement
  - Criticality control

- Technical Challenges
  - Long-term corrosion
  - Basket properties
  - Absorber efficiency
  - Monitoring sealed internals



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Potential Technical Issues
Overpack Performance

- Safety Functions
  - Shielding
  - Heat transfer

- Technical Challenges
  - Long-term degradation
  - Response to external natural events and external disruption

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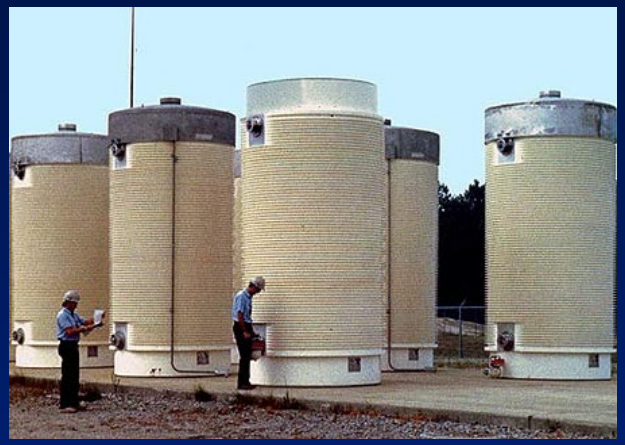
Current NRC Regulatory Framework for Storage

- Renewable Term Licenses
- Aging Management Plan
  - Time-limited aging analyses
  - Design for prevention
  - Monitoring
  - Maintenance
  - Corrective Actions



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Potential Regulatory Issues

- Storage, transportation, and disposal integration
- Long term cladding integrity and retrievability
- Financial assurance issues

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Regulating Extended Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation: Stakeholder Engagement Strategies

- Status Updates
- Reports for Comment
- Meetings and Workshops

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Summary

- Assuring safety and security as changes occur in the national strategy by developing predictable regulatory programs
- NRC is preparing to
  - develop a regulatory framework to better support long-term dry storage
  - coordinate EST technical basis work with environmental impact analysis for long-term update of Waste Confidence
- Opportunities for stakeholder input through public meetings, workshops, and draft reports