Are there any currently-operating disposal facilities that can accept all of the depleted uranium oxide that would be generated from conversion of DOE's depleted UF_6 inventory?

With respect to available capacity, three sites could accept the entire inventory of depleted uranium oxide: the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Hanford site in Washington State, DOE's Nevada Test Site, or Envirocare of Utah, a commercial site. Each of these sites would have sufficient capacity for either the grouted or ungrouted oxide forms of depleted uranium (for the two DOE sites, this also takes into account other projected disposal volumes through the year 2070).

The minimum required disposal volume for the entire inventory would be for ungrouted uranium dioxide (UO_2), requiring 61,000 m^3 of disposal volume. The maximum required volume would be for grouted triuranium octaoxide (U_3O_8), which would require 410,000 m^3. As of 1999, the sites have the following remaining capacities: Hanford site, 1.5 million m^3; NTS site, 2.5 million m^3; and Envirocare site, 11 million m^3. Each of these sites is located in arid or semi-arid desert land. Current estimates of disposal costs range from about $250 to $1,100 per cubic meter.

More information on Envirocare can be found at http://www.envirocareutah.com.

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