



Strengthening Communication and Stakeholder Involvement in Spent Fuel Processes and Issues

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Presentation overview

- CSG background
- Involving stakeholders: who, why, how, when
- Issues: historical, emerging



The Council of State Governments

- Region-based, national organization serving all three branches of state government
- Mission is to foster the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials shape public policy
- Create opportunities to develop multi-state solutions to common problems

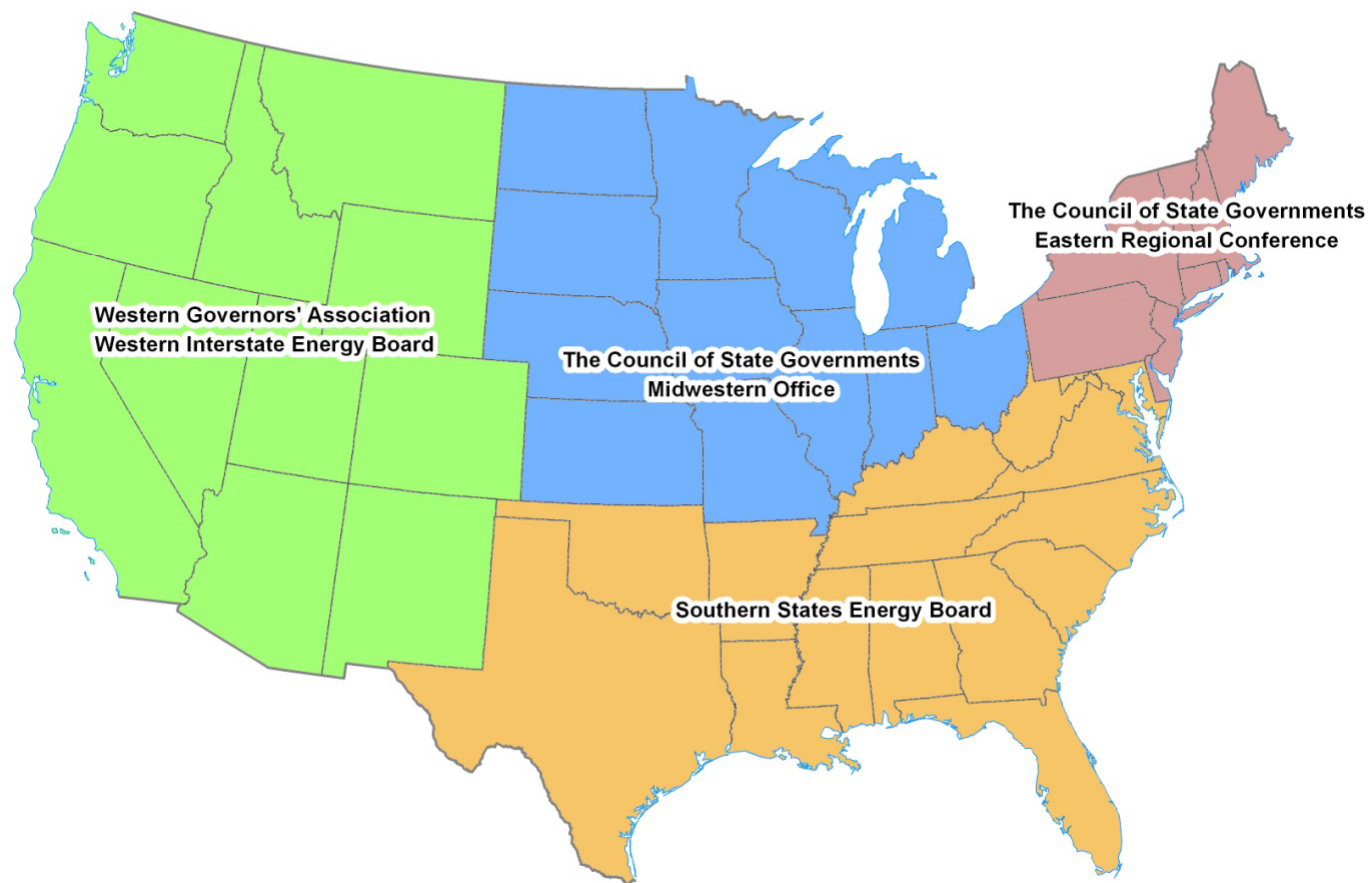


Midwestern Radioactive Materials Transportation Project

- Cooperative agreement with DOE established in 1989
- OCRWM, EM, WIPP, others
- Regional committee, shipment planning, information/communication
- One of four regional projects working with DOE to engage states in shipment planning



Regional cooperative agreement groups





Involving states and other stakeholders

- What is a stakeholder?
- Why should they be involved?
- How?
- When?



Rationale for involving stakeholders

“The Department of Energy recognizes that the success of its program to develop and implement a national system for nuclear waste management and disposal...depends not only on safety, but on broad-based public understanding of and confidence in program activities and objectives.”

—OCRWM Transportation Institutional Plan (1986)





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Institutional issues related to the nuclear fuel cycle

- Disposal: site-selection criteria and process
- Storage: very long-term storage; decommissioned sites; impact on communities; security
- Transportation: after storage; *because of* storage; expectations.
- Reprocessing: lots of opinion; little information



Summing up

- Stakeholders are for “involving,” not for “handling.”
- “Involving” and “educating” are not the same thing.
- Outreach should be frequent, regularly scheduled, and accessible to stakeholders.
- It is never too early, but is often too late.



Final thought

“Openness is the surest policy.”

– *National Research Council, Committee on Risk Perception and Communication, 1989*



For further information

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