



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Nuclear Fuels Storage & Transportation Planning Project
Office of Fuel Cycle Technologies
Nuclear Energy

Nuclear Fuels Storage and Transportation Planning Project (NFST) Program Status

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**National Transportation
Stakeholders Forum**
Bloomington, Minnesota
May 13-15, 2014





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NFST Established to Plan for Interim Storage and Transportation



- **Mission**
 - Lay the groundwork for implementing interim storage, including associated transportation, per the Administration's *Strategy for the Management and Disposal of Used Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste*, and develop a foundation for a new nuclear waste management organization

- **Purpose**
 - Make progress on this important national issue
 - Build foundation that could be transferred to a new waste management disposal organization (MDO)

- **Activities**
 - Build upon BRC recommendations
 - Lay ground work for implementing the Strategy
 - Align with existing Nuclear Waste Policy Act authorities



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Congressional Activity

- **Legislation will be needed to implement key parts of the Administration's Strategy**
- **Senators Wyden, Murkowski, Feinstein, and Alexander introduced comprehensive, bipartisan nuclear waste legislation drawing from the Blue Ribbon Commission report**
- **Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2013 (S. 1240) would:**
 - Establish a siting process for storage and repository facilities that relies on consent agreements and Congressional ratification
 - Establish a new organization – Nuclear Waste Administration – run by a single Administrator and overseen by an Oversight Board
 - Address funding reform by creating a new Working Capital Fund in which fees are deposited and are available as needed

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FY 2014 Budget

- **Complete an analysis for initial used fuel shipments from shutdown reactor sites**
- **Continue the evaluation of standardized containers for storage, transportation, and potentially disposal**
- **Continue to work cooperatively with the state regional groups and tribes on transportation issues**
- **Update the National Transportation Plan to address initial shipments from shutdown reactors**
- **Continue the conceptual design for a generic storage facility and supporting transportation system**

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Topics for NTSF May 13 Working Group Meetings

■ Working Group Meetings

- Draft National Transportation Plan
 - Sent to Core Group representatives in April
 - NTSF Working Group Discussion and Feedback
 - Discussion of route planning
 - Demonstrate START and its role in routing
- NWPA section 180(c)
 - Hear feed back from Interregional Team on 10 previously identified issues
 - Discuss designing a 180(c) table top exercise
 - Discussion of route planning
 - Demonstrate START and its role in routing

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Topics for NTSF May 15 Plenary Session

■ Plenary Session on Planning to Ship Spent fuel

- Overview of the NFST project
- Discussion of current shutdown sites activities
- Railcar development and other hardware needs, and development of analytical tools to support transport
- Summary of discussions
 - National Transportation Plan
 - 180(c) policy
 - Preliminary routing activities
 - Feedback from stakeholders for Working Group meetings

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NRC Order Resuming Yucca Mountain Licensing Process

- **NRC issued order resuming licensing process consistent with U.S. Court of Appeals mandamus decision. The order directed the NRC staff, among other things, to complete the Safety Evaluation Report**
- **The NRC order also requested DOE to:**
 - Prepare a groundwater supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that the staff has determined is needed for purposes of its review of the application under the National Environmental Policy Act.
 - Provide NRC staff with reference documents it requests.
 - Provide any information or support requested by NRC to facilitate timely completion of the Yucca Mountain Safety Evaluation Report.
- **DOE will provide updated technical analysis using Nuclear Waste Fund carryover balances, subject to availability of funds**

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Response to US Court of Appeals Nuclear Waste Fee

- **November 19, 2013 - the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia issued a decision ordering the Secretary “to submit to Congress a proposal to change the fee to zero until such a time as either the Secretary chooses to comply with the Act as it is currently written, or until Congress enacts an alternative waste management plan”**
- **January 3, 2014 - Consistent with the mandate, the Department of Energy submitted a proposal to Congress to adjust the current fee to zero**

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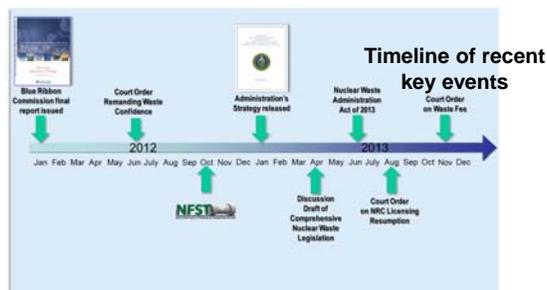




To Implement the *Strategy*, Legislation is Needed That Would:

- Permit construction of an ISF before repository construction license by NRC
- Create the Management and Disposal Organization (MDO)
- Permit new siting studies for a repository
- Allow funding changes for timely implementation by the MDO

DOE will lay the ground work within existing authority until legislation is enacted



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