



***Phoenix Rising: Moving Forward in
Waste Management***

Phoenix, AZ

February 25, 2008

**Dale E. Klein, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

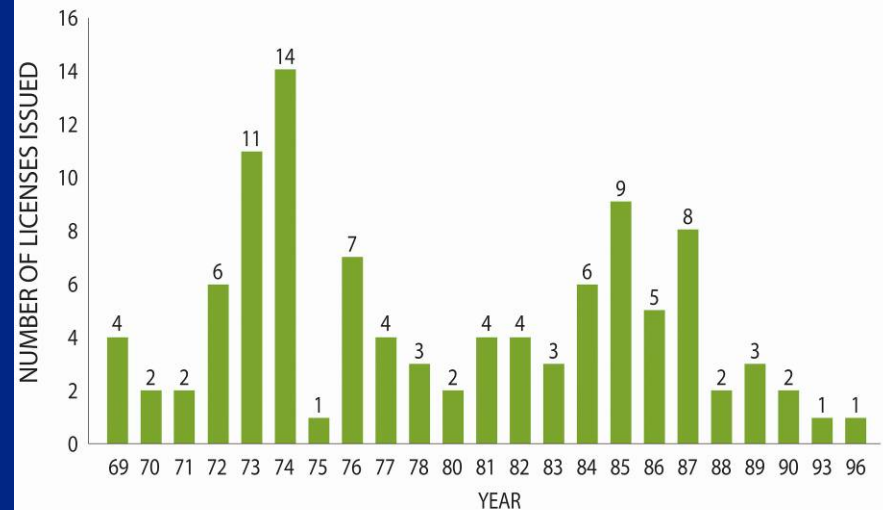
Today's students... and tomorrow's nuclear scientists and engineers... will likely use advanced recycling technology to reduce waste volume.





Power plant license renewals have deferred, but not eliminated, a major decommissioning waste challenge.

U.S. Commercial Nuclear Power Reactor Operating Licenses Issued by Year

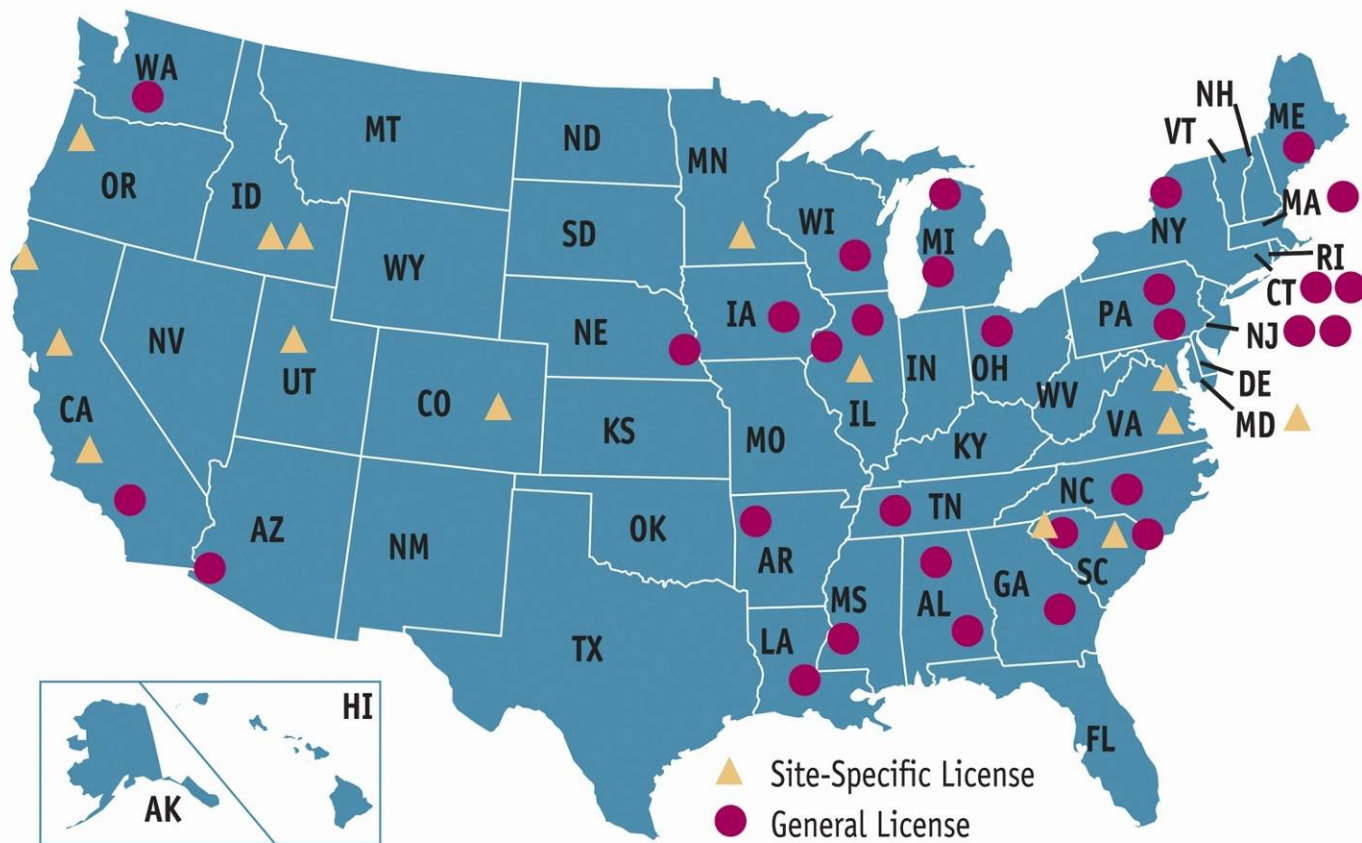


Note: No licenses issued after 1996.



Barnwell Disposal Facility, South Carolina

Licensed/Operating Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations





The 1984 waste confidence rule found:

- safe disposal of spent fuel in a geologic repository is technically feasible,**
- a repository will eventually be available,**
- high-level waste will be safely managed until a repository is available,**
- spent fuel can be stored safely without significant environmental impacts, and**
- spent fuel storage will be available.**



A possible waste confidence update might consider whether:

- **the earlier 100-year confidence remains valid;**
- **fuel from new reactors warrants any changes;**
- **the Commission's expectations about a timeline for a repository should be updated.**



The NRC has been preparing to receive a license application for a potential Yucca Mountain waste repository... but that would only be the first step.



Yucca Mountain, South Portal



The waste disposal challenge requires cooperation among all stakeholders.



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