

# *WNA Statement*

*Towards Greater Efficiency in the  
Management of Low-Level Radioactive  
Material that Concurrently Supports  
Reuse, Recycling and Disposal*

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# WNA as the Trade Association of Nuclear

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WNA is the trade association of the global nuclear industry with a worldwide membership

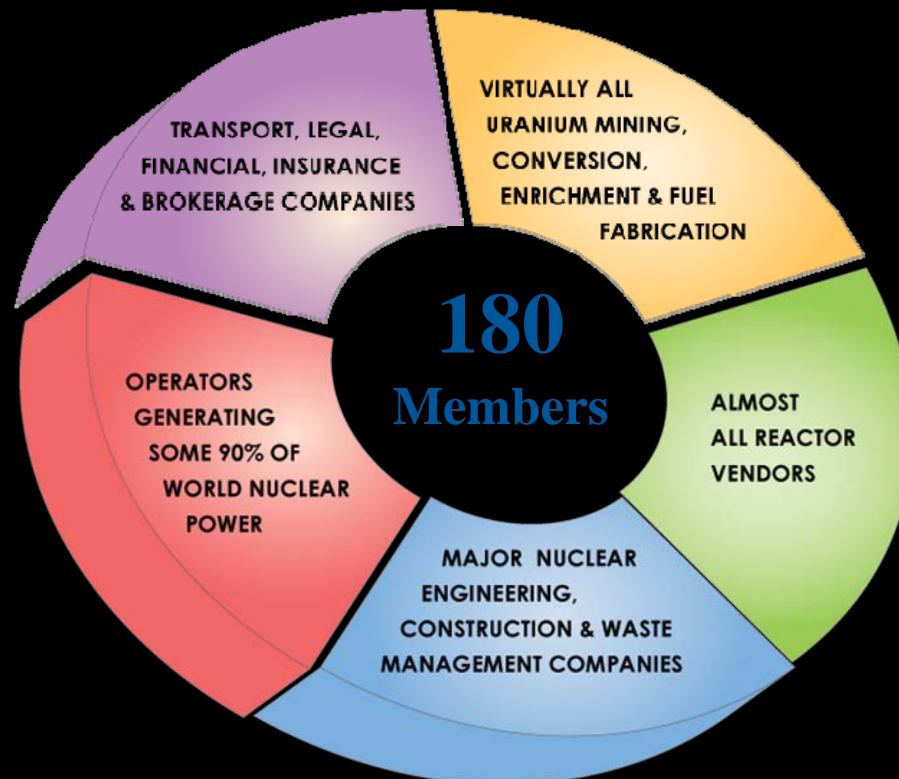
- Based in London, UK
- Website: <http://www.world-nuclear.org>
- **Global nuclear news:** <http://www.world-nuclear-news.org>
- See in Annex for more info



# WNA Membership

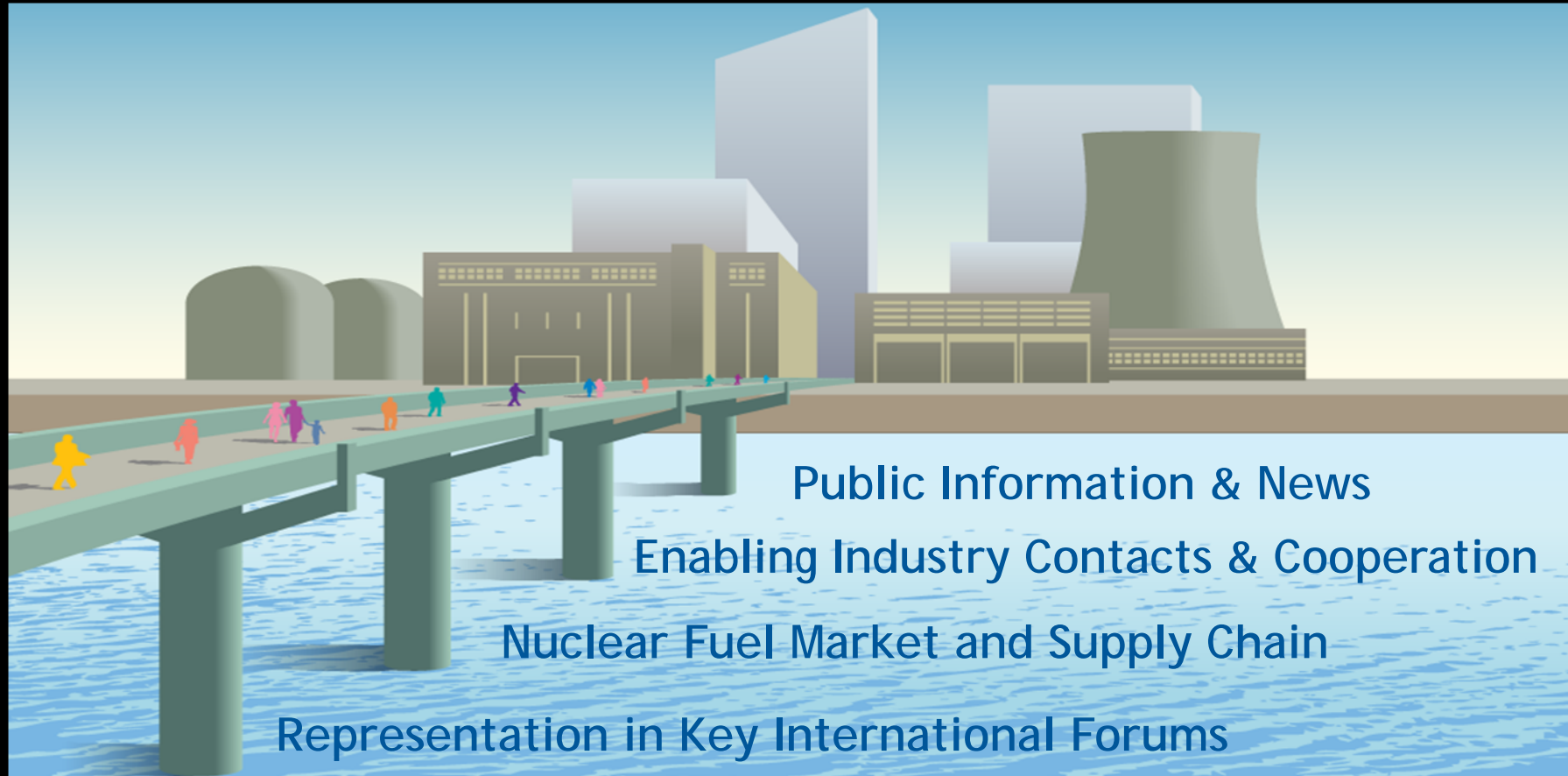
Through its membership, WNA is unique, global and truly representative. It involves all enterprises of the industry

- Over 180 industry enterprises from over 30 countries
- Over 90% of world uranium production and nuclear power generation



# WNA Four Pillars of International Support

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**Simply imagine how any serious industry can exist nowadays without high international visibility**

# Essential Message... on concurrently supporting Reuse, Recycling and Disposal

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Need to converge toward greater efficiency and this requires consistent strategies and approaches

All domestic strategies and approaches may have cross-boundary implications

WNA therefore supports further international standardization and implementation

Building on stronger international support can in turn be (very) helpful at the national level

# Background

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What is the material that we are talking about?

During operations, low-level radioactive material is routinely generated from normal activities

This normal material was not radioactive in the first place. It became slightly radioactive due to the presence of tiny amounts of radioactivity in the nearby work environment - but isolated from nuclear processes:

e.g. clothes, rags, metal equipment, concrete structures,...

# Background

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Most of this normal material can be freed from its added radioactivity through survey and simple clean-up

Should this be more widely known, an often negatively charged debate could be substantially depolarized, thus reducing habitual systematic opposition to any Reuse, Recycling and Disposal

# Discussion

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In a world committed to greater efficiency and sustainable development, there is no more room for such a log jam...systematic No

In turn, this issue (no reuse and recycling) amplifies the continued reliance on new resources

Meanwhile, continued indecision on disposal is not sustainable either and leads to excessive storage



# Discussion

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This inefficiency comes at a high price, not just for the industry but also for society as a whole

For greater efficiency, all 3 options of Reuse, Recycling and Disposal need to be concurrently available

Unfortunately, irrationality continues to prevail in too many countries - even in those with large nuclear programmes

# Discussion

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Taking Europe as an example:

Excellence in the implementation of:

- The reuse and recycling of metals
- Disposal of very-low radioactive waste

would, if widely shared between countries, lead to greater efficiency

Any country's choice of locking-in into a single option imposes serious limits on efficiency gains

# Discussion

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A pre-condition to success is a solid industrial business case built on a viable level of activity

For reuse and recycling, viability of a processing facility's input and output streams is key:

- Suppliers' volumes and track records
- Buyers' demand volumes

For disposal, capacity is a key factor that definitely plays a key role in defining unit cost

# Discussion

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## Clarifications on reuse and recycling:

It is mainly about a controlled process with input material and output products that have defined specifications

Narrowing down this case to the notion of 'clearance' falls way short of the complete picture

# Discussion

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For all 3 options, disproportionate emphasis is too often put on a series of technical parameters

This tends to mask the viability or not of the overall industrial business case: e.g.

- Newly built recycling facilities facing a too small market
- Disposal site with insufficient capacity...upfront

Another key factor to success is to maintain a high degree of trust and confidence in the business case... via responsible operators and regulators

# Conclusion

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The *status quo* on the Reuse, Recycling and Disposal of low-level radioactive material is clearly untenable:

- i.e. Too many countries have no option or rely on a single option

International and national leaders from both industry and governments should enable the concurrent availability of the 3 options in each country, worldwide

# Conclusion

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Whenever the option considered is supported by a solid industrial business case, operators and regulators can (and must) concurrently deploy and operate safe Reuse, Recycling and Disposal

WNA entirely supports this more flexible approach and it has the firm conviction that the exclusive commitment to a single option cannot be sound on any grounds

# Conclusion

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**We know that we are in for the long ride with campaigning required all along**

**We are happy to cooperate with all players with a view to achieve the concurrent availability of Reuse, Recycling and Disposal in each country, worldwide**



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# Questions?

**Thank you for your attention**  
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# WNA's Website – The primary worldwide source of comprehensive info on nuclear energy (1 hit/5 seconds!)

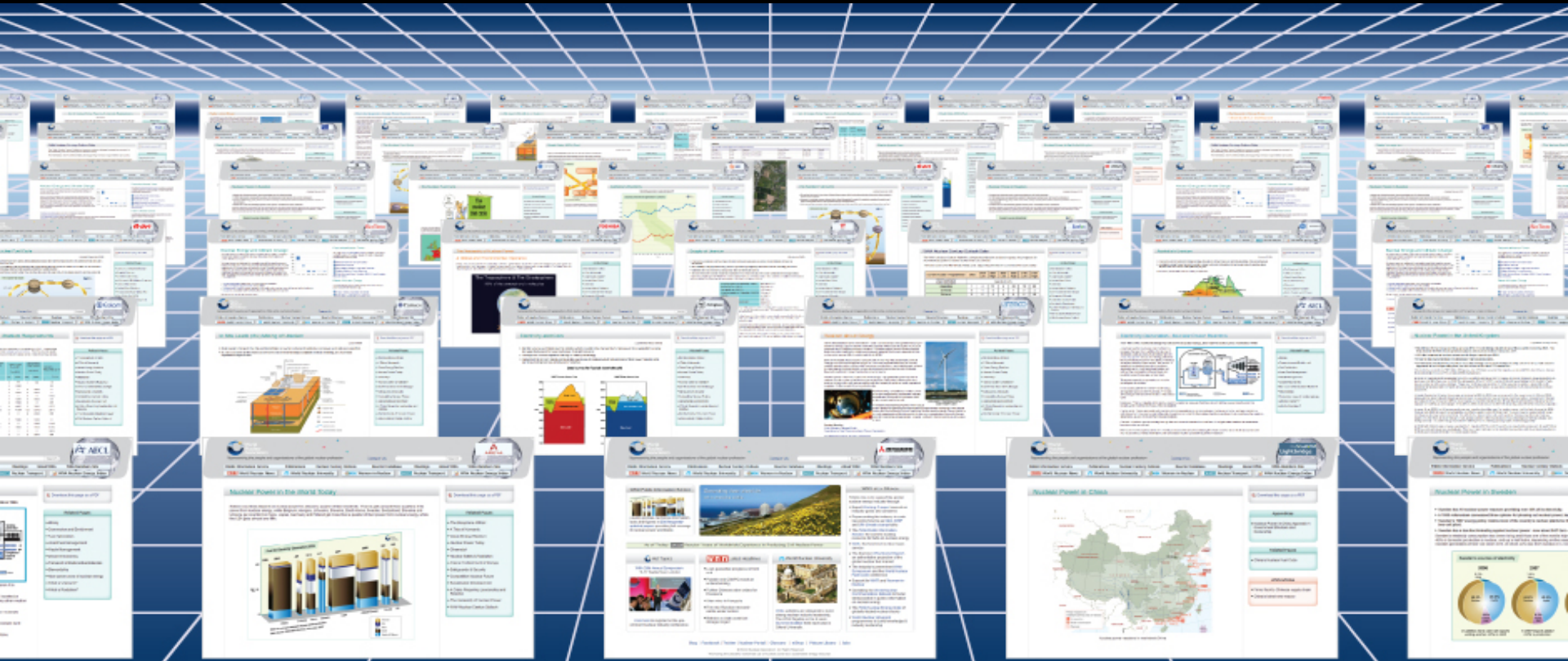
The screenshot shows the homepage of the World Nuclear Association (WNA) website. At the top left is the WNA logo with the tagline "Representing the people and organisations of the global nuclear profession". To the right is the ICHNP logo and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Public Information Service", "Publications", "Nuclear Century Outlook", "Reactor Database", "Meetings", "About WNA", and "WNA Members Site". A secondary menu includes "WNN World Nuclear News", "World Nuclear University", "WIN Women-in-Nuclear", "WNTI Nuclear Transport", and "WNA Nuclear Energy Index".

The main content area features several sections:

- WNA Public Information Service:** Includes a bar chart titled "Fuel for Electricity Generation" and text stating: "Country profiles, technical information, facts and figures in 200 frequently-updated papers providing full coverage of nuclear power worldwide."
- WNA at a Glance:** A list of bullet points describing WNA's role and services, including expert working groups, policy representation, the public information service, WNN news service, the biennial market report, the WNA Symposium, and support for WNTI and Women-in-Nuclear.
- As of Today:** A green bar displaying "14210 Reactor-Years of Worldwide Experience in Producing Civil Nuclear Power".
- Hot Topics:** A section titled "Four Pillars of Support for a Fast-Globalizing Nuclear Industry" with an image of a report cover.
- WNN Latest Headlines:** A list of three news items: "Nuclear diplomacy", "Extended operating period for Higashidori 1", and "TVA requests extension to Bellefonte 1 permit".
- Reactor Database:** A map of France with several red location pins and labels for cities like Lyon, Meyzieu, and Annecy.

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/>

# WNA Website - A wealth of info on nuclear



- 130 Information Papers updated regularly
- A 'hit' every 5 seconds round the clock
- Used equally by public and industry

# WNA's World Nuclear News (WNN) - Which provides (free of charge) daily global nuclear news

**wnn**  
world nuclear news

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Last Updated : 26 October 2010

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