

# Used Nuclear Fuel and HLW National and International Perspectives

James Rubenstone
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

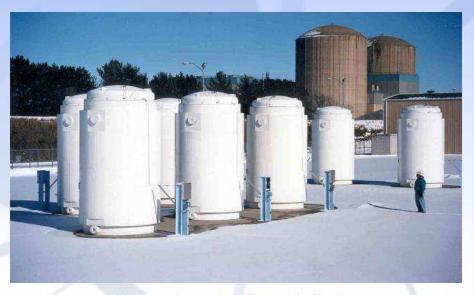
Waste Management Symposium February 26, 2013



## Regulation in a Changing World

- As U.S. policy evolves, NRC's mission remains the same: ensure the safe and secure use of radioactive materials while protecting people and the environment
- Successful management of spent fuel and HLW requires independent regulation and system-level understanding





Protecting People and the Environment



## Spent Fuel Storage and Transportation

- Technical basis for extended storage and transportation
  - Degradation processes
  - Predictive models
  - Monitoring and inspection
- Focused research to understand impacts
- Coordinate knowledge with industry and other stakeholders
- Revise regulatory framework as needed



**Draft Report for Comment** 

Identification and Prioritization of the Technical Information Needs Affecting Potential Regulation of Extended Storage and Transportation of Spent Nuclear Fuel

May 2012



## **Ultimate Disposal**

- Provide clear regulatory and technical basis for a risk-informed, performance-based framework for repository licensing
- Maintain and enhance staff expertise
  - Technical knowledge
  - Performance assessment capability
- Continue public awareness of the NRC role and interact with stakeholders openly and credibly throughout the process
- Leverage international experience



## International Engagement

#### NEA

- Radioactive Waste Management Council
- Forum on Stakeholder Confidence

#### • IAEA

- Consultancies and Cooperative Research
   Programs on storage, transportation, disposal
- Technical collaborations
  - DECOVALEX-2015
- Bilateral interactions



#### Waste Confidence

#### Milestone Schedule

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Scoping Period** 

October 25, 2012 – January 2, 2013

**Publish Scoping Summary Report** 

**March 2013** 

**Draft EIS, Draft Waste Confidence Decision,** 

and Proposed Waste Confidence Rule September 2013

**Public Comment Period** 

September – November 2013

Final EIS, Final Waste Confidence Decision, and Final **Waste Confidence Rule** 

August 2014

http://www.nrc.gov/waste/spent-fuel-storage/wcd.html WCOutreach@nrc.gov