



**AREVA**

forward-looking energy



# Progress in Dealing with the World's Stockpile of Used Nuclear Fuel – How Can Consolidated Interim Storage and Reprocessing Help?

**Frederic Bailly – U.S. Region Director  
AREVA Back-End Business Group**

**Waste Management 2014**

**PANEL 057**

**Phoenix, AZ**

**March 4th, 2014**



# Agenda

- ▶ **France Recycling Program**
- ▶ **Recycling Benefits**
- ▶ **2030 Outlook**
- ▶ **Sustainable Cycle Solutions**

# EDF, AREVA and Andra



Low and intermediate level Waste repository closed – under control



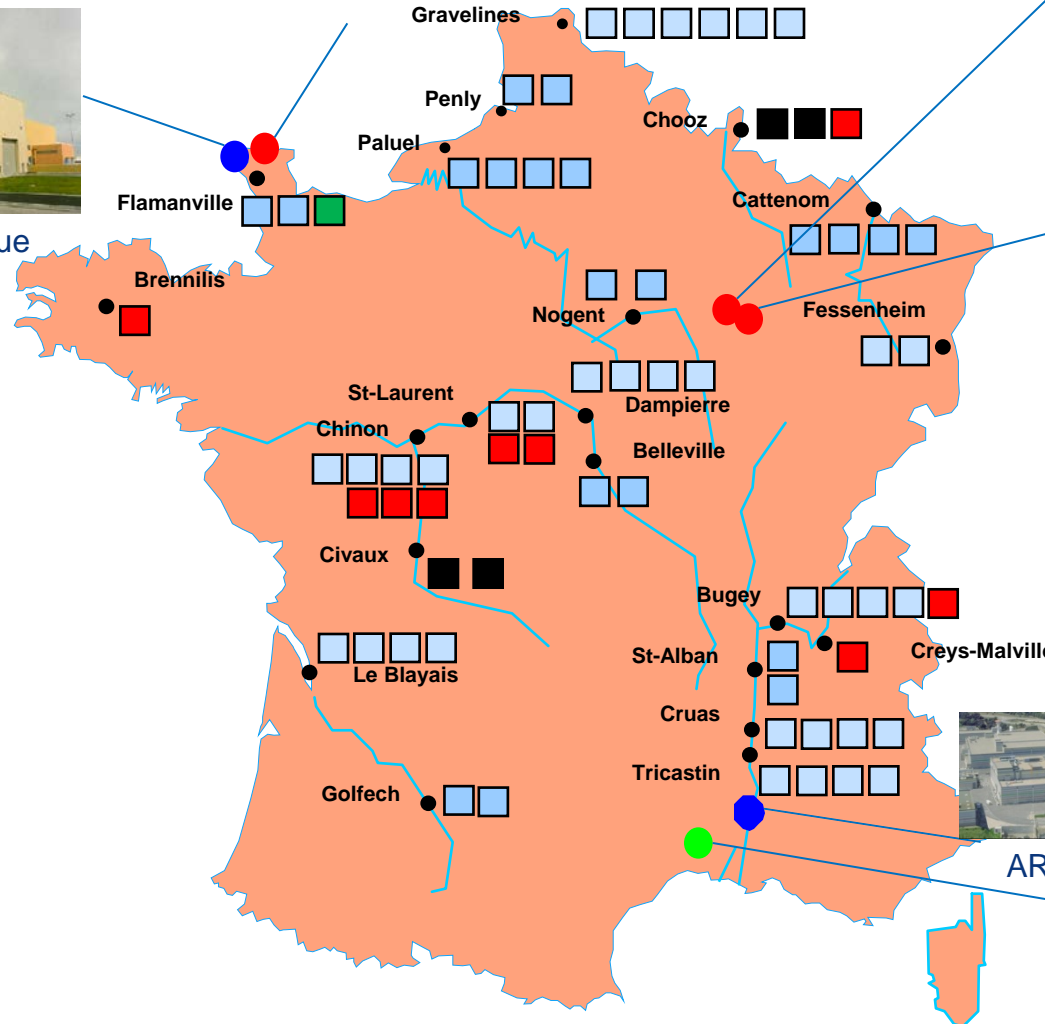
Low and intermediate level Waste repository (CSA Soulaire)



Centre de stockage TFA (CIRES Morvilliers)



Areva - La Hague facilities



NPP in operation (58)

- 34 PWR 900 MW
- 20 PWR 1300 MW
- 4 PWR 1500 MW

- EPR in construction (1)
- In decommissioning (9)

- Andra repositories
- CENTRACO facilities
- AREVA facilities



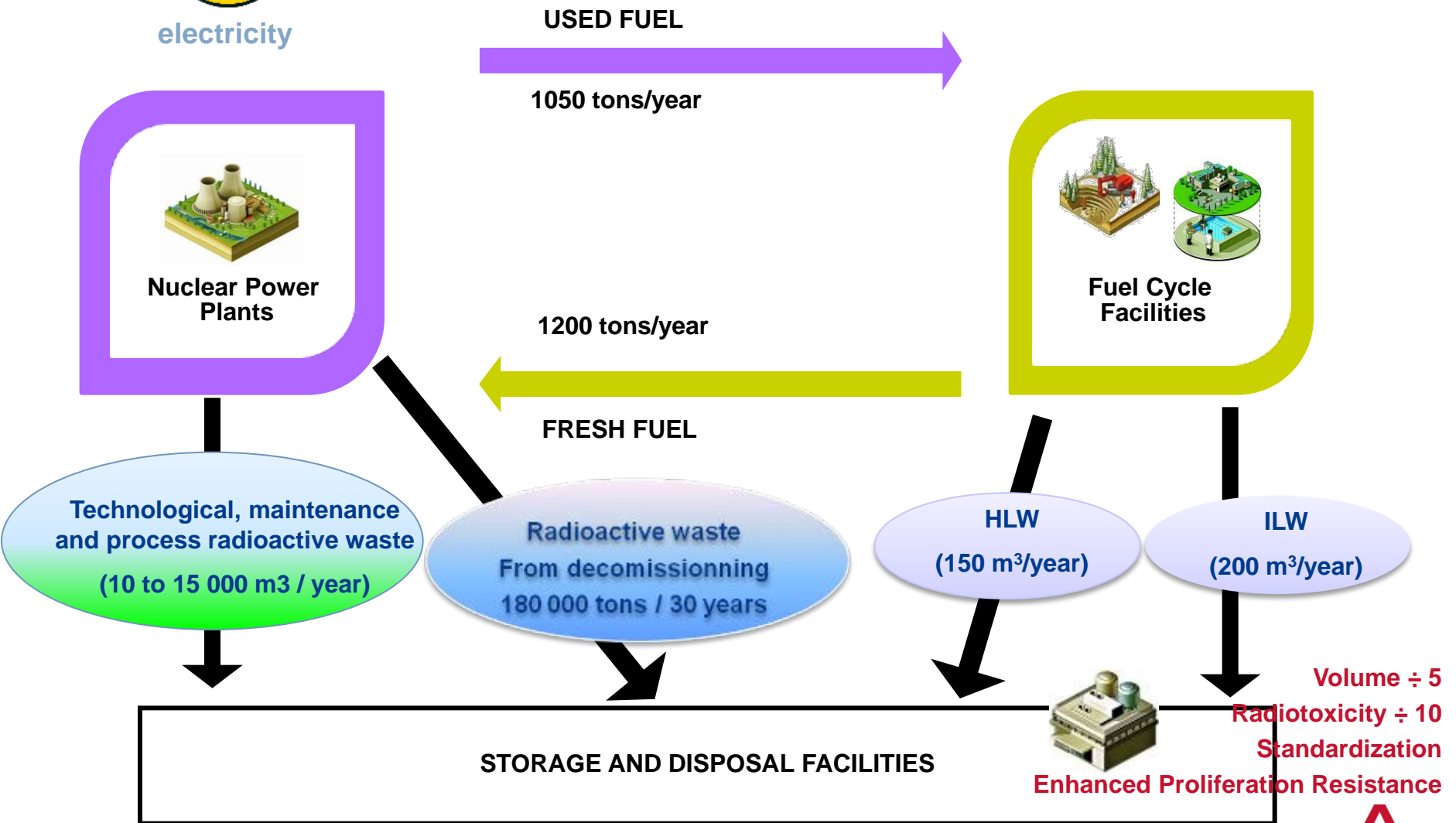
AREVA-Melox

CENTRACO Incinération & melting

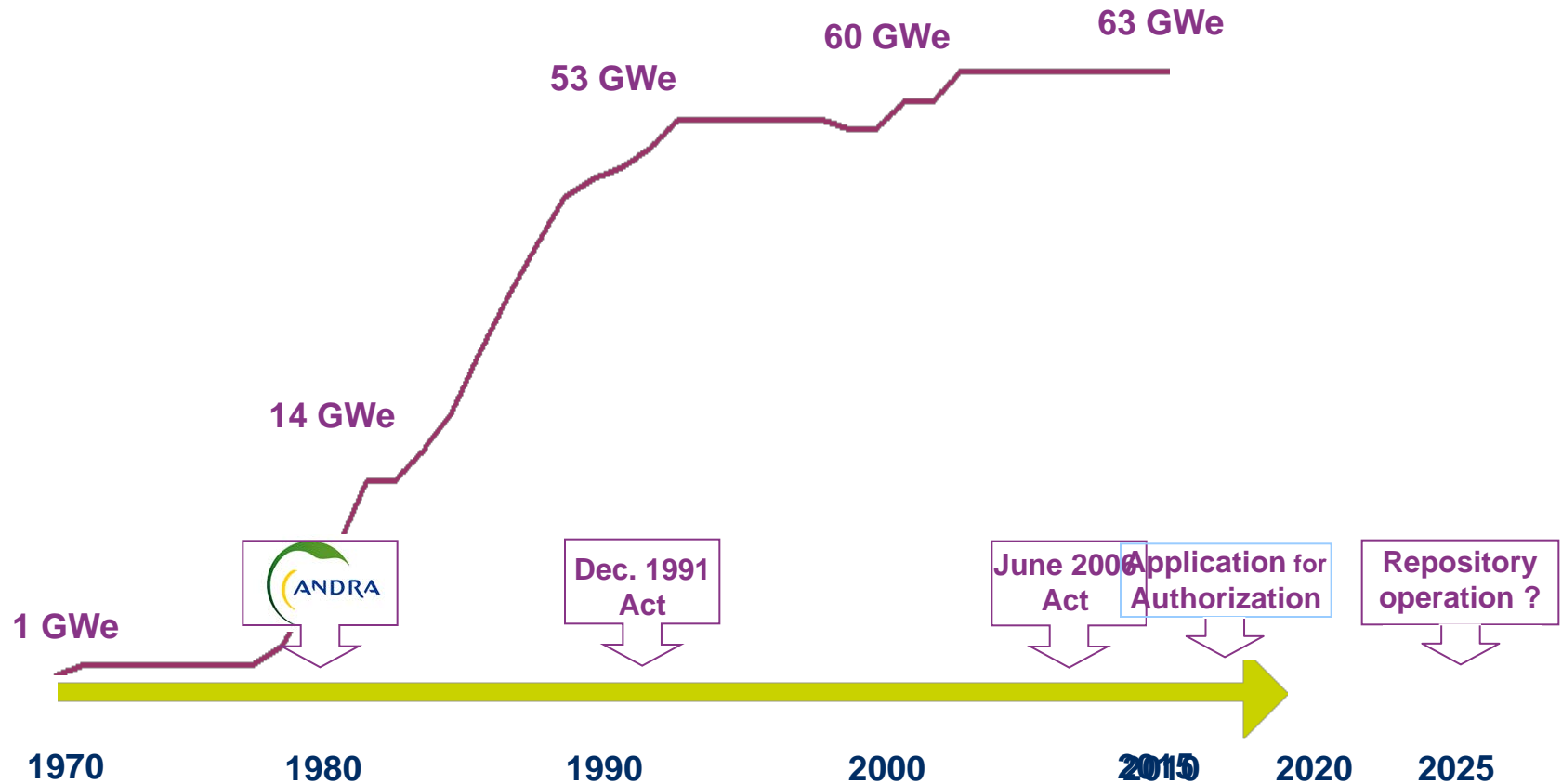


electricity








# Radioactive Waste Overview



# Used Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management: evolution of the French regulatory framework



# Over 28,000 tons\* of Used Fuel Recycled through La Hague and MELOX

	Tons processed
 <b>EDF France</b>	<b>18 940</b>
 <b>German utilities</b>	<b>5 483</b>
 <b>Japanese utilities</b>	<b>2 944</b>
 <b>Swiss utilities</b>	<b>771</b>
 <b>Synatom (Belgium)</b>	<b>671</b>
 <b>EPZ (The Netherlands)</b>	<b>360</b>
 <b>SOGIN (Italy)</b>	<b>190</b>

\* UOX or MOX type fuel

# Recycling Benefits in France

## ▶ **Manages Risks Now**

- ◆ **Safely Buys Time to Develop a Repository**
- ◆ **Reduces Interim Storage Needs / No Safeguards**

## ▶ **Optimizes the Use of a Disposal Site**

- ◆ **Volume and Source Term Reduction**
- ◆ **Waste Form designed for Disposal**
- ◆ **Heat Load Management**

## ▶ **Saves Resources**

- ◆ **Example of France: saved over 20 000 tons of natural Uranium so far**



AREVA - La Hague facilities

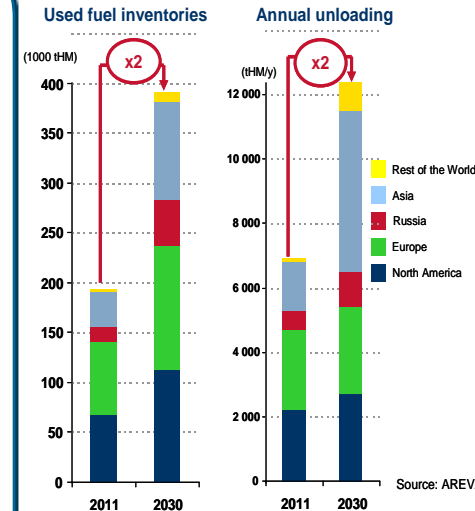
## ▶ **Allows for Flexible and Sustainable Industrial Scenarios**

- ◆ **Recycle Once in LWRs**
- ◆ **Multi-Recycle Scenarios in LWRs**
- ◆ **Smooth Transition to GenIV Reactors**
  - Limited Number of Fast Reactors  
AND / OR
  - Transition to Fast Reactors





- ▶ **Inventories of Used Fuel will have Doubled**
- ▶ **Annual Unloading of Used Fuel will have Doubled**
- ▶ **Geological Disposal will be a Scarce & Valuable Resource**
- ▶ **Recycle Helps**
  - ◆ Time, Interim Storage Needs
  - ◆ Optimization of Deep Disposal Use
  - ◆ Saves Resources, Flexible Options Open
  
- ▶ **Worldwide Recycling Capacity will address 50% of Annual Unloading at best**
  - ◆ All Options are Needed ! Interim Storage & Recycling
  - ◆ Reactor Fleet Situations / Transition Strategies



# Sustainable Cycle Solutions

Sustainable Solutions for an optimized, long-term and responsible management of used fuel

## RECYCLING & HLW STORAGE



RECYCLING

## INTERIM OPTIONS FOR USED FUEL

### DRY STORAGE



### WET STORAGE



## TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS



## Sustainable Cycle Solutions



A smart mix of proven and evolving technologies tailored to stakeholders' needs and constraints

# Backup



# Reference main streams at La Hague

100% HM of used fuel



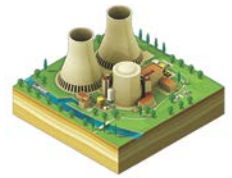
Recycling

Uranium 95% → ERU

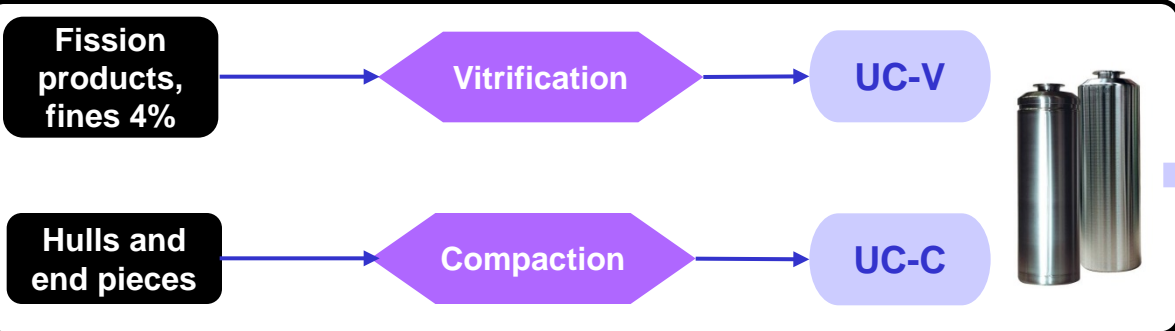
Loaded in 4 reactors in France  
Kept as strategic inventory

Plutonium 1% → MOX

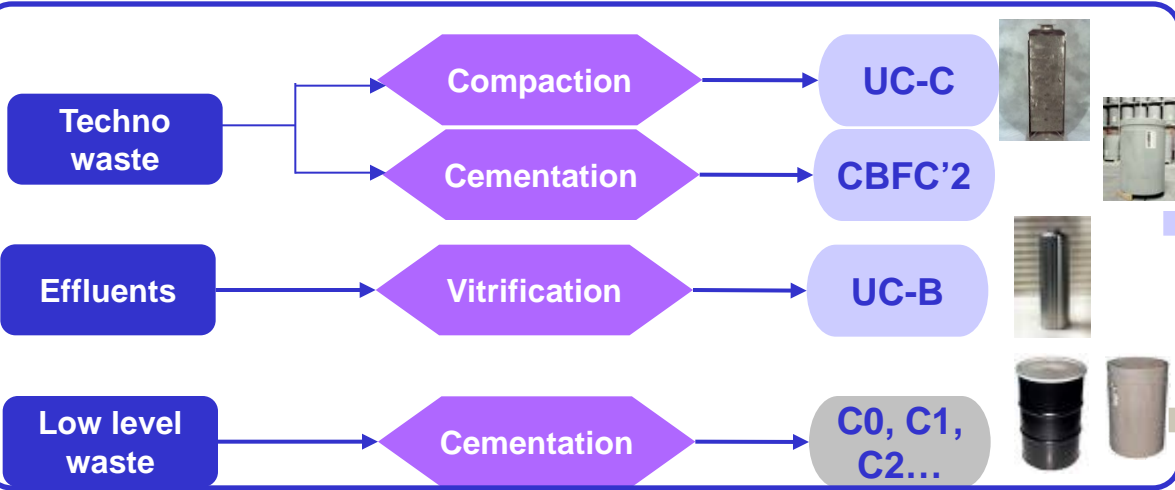
Loaded in 22 reactors in France



Ultimate waste from UNF treatment



Waste from Operations

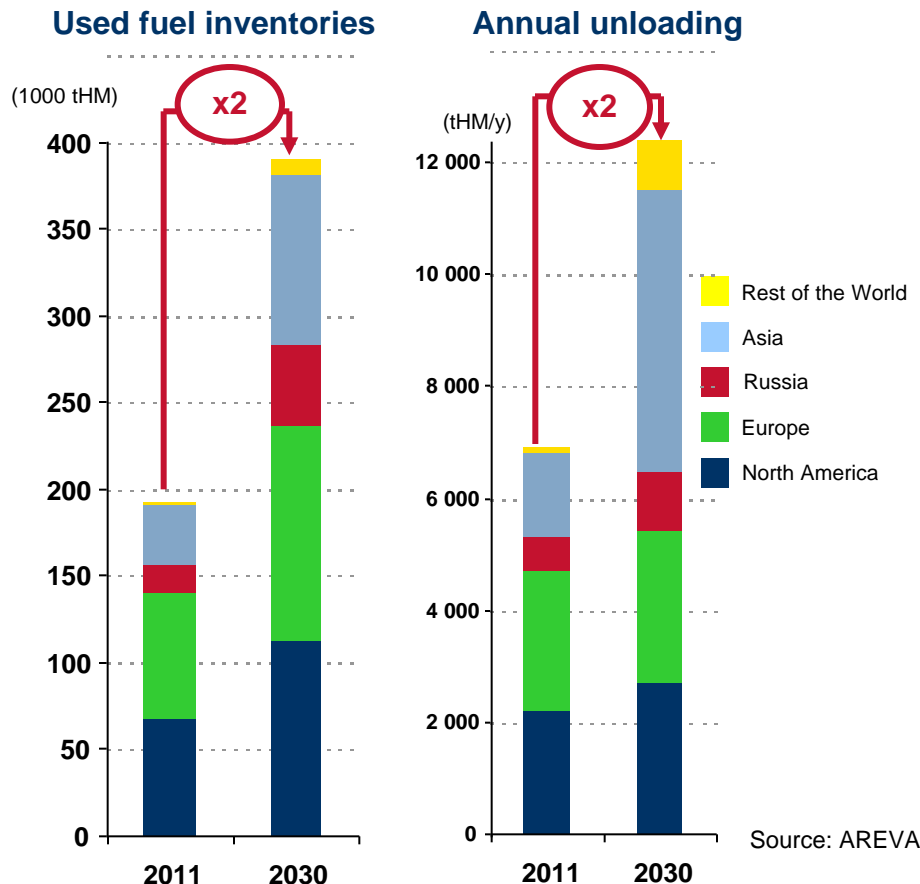


CIGEO  
HLW-LL-ILW  
Repository

CSA  
LLW & SL-ILW  
repository

# Used Fuel Inventories

Global nuclear capacity is expected to increase by ~+50% over 2012-30



## Main drivers of used fuel management

### Risk Reduction

- ▶ Non-proliferation & security
- ▶ Nuclear safety
- ▶ Environmental impact & footprint
- ▶ Public acceptance

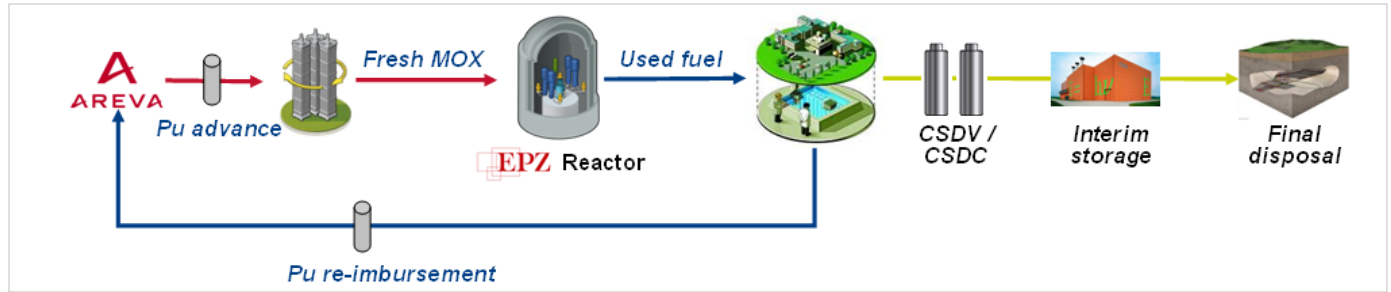
### Nuclear System Performance

- ▶ Increase energy independence
- ▶ Optimize cost of nuclear electricity
- ▶ Preserve natural resources
- ▶ Minimize waste generated

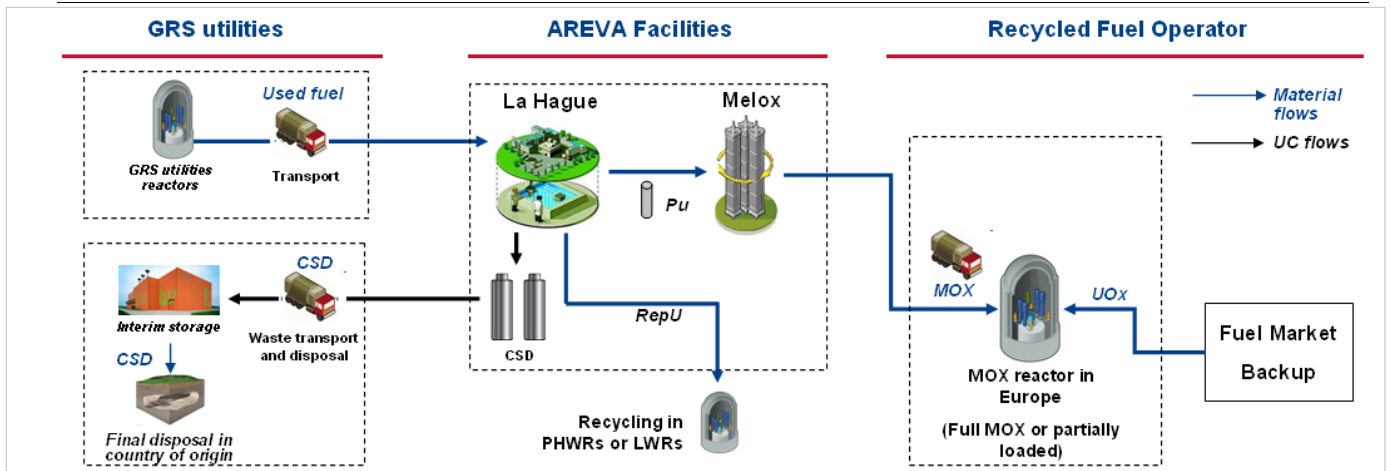
» Optimizing the fuel cycle will become even more crucial to ensure the sustainable growth of nuclear energy

# Developing New Offers for Used Fuel Management

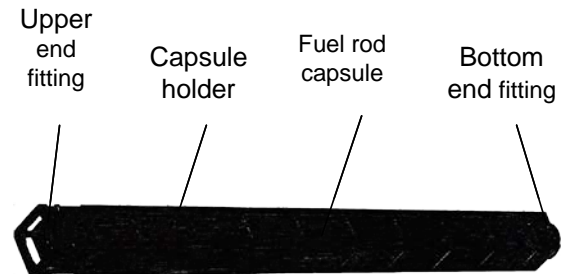
## Precycling



## Global Recycling Services



## Damaged fuel treatment



# French Policy is Consistent with the Conclusions of the 2010 ORNL Study

## ▶ ORNL Analysis Concludes:

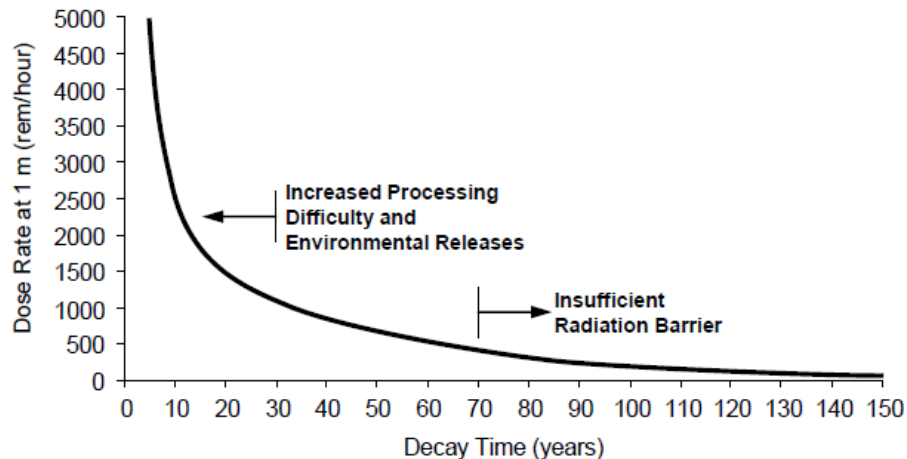
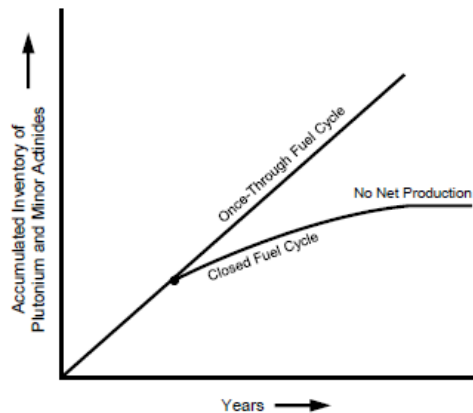
- ◆ The cost of implementing full recycle will be an insignificant change to the cost of nuclear electricity
  - ◆ Engineered safeguards can be used to provide adequate proliferation resistance
  - ◆ Continuing delay will likely occur in locating and operating a geologic repository
  - ◆ Continued storage of used fuels is not a permanent solution
- ▶ **With no decision, the path forward for used fuel disposal will remain uncertain, with many diverse technologies being considered and no possible focus on a practical solution to the problem**
- ▶ **However, a decision to move forward with used fuel recycling and to take advantage of processing aged fuels and incorporation of near-complete recycling can provide the focus needed for a practical solution to the problem of nuclear waste disposal**

Source: Oak Ridge National Laboratory, "Compelling Reasons for Near-Term Deployment of Plutonium Recycle from Used Nuclear Fuels—A Systems Analysis Study"

# ORNL: The Risks of Waiting



## Continued Storage Concerns — increasing inventory and decreasing radiation barrier



- Current inventory contains ~500 MT of plutonium and annual production is ~20 MT/year
- Radiation barrier decreasing exponentially with time
- At least 50 years required to build recycle capacity needed to match annual production
- With equal recycle capacity and production rates, inventory will continue to increase because of incomplete burnup in each partitioning-transmutation cycle
- Implementation of plutonium recycle is needed

17 Managed by UT-Battelle  
for the U.S. Department of Energy



Source: Oak Ridge National Laboratory, "Compelling Reasons for Near-Term Deployment of Plutonium Recycle from Used Nuclear Fuels—A Systems Analysis Study"



# No health impact

- ▶ From a radiological standpoint, the site's impact\* is 100 times lower than natural radioactivity levels

AREVA  
La Hague  
< 0,02 mSv / year

Natural exposure  
2,4 mSv / year

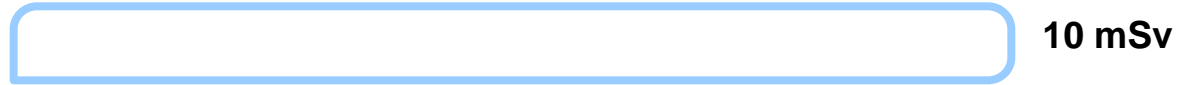


\*Impact calculated since 2004 using a model produced by the GRNC (Groupe Radio-écologie Nord-Cotentin), making allowance for the results of the AREVA public enquiry (1998), for a reference group : population likely to be the most highly exposed due to its position and lifestyle.

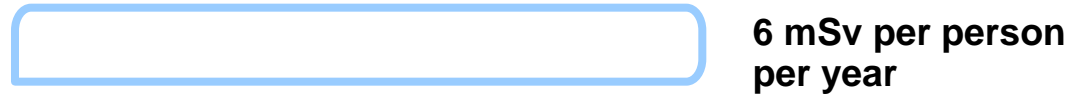


# A few comparisons

A scan



Natural exposure in the Limousin area



Average Natural Exposure in France



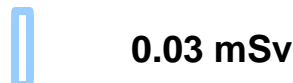
An abdominal X-ray



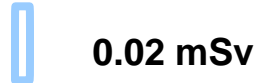
A chest X-ray



Consuming 1 ½ liters of mineral water every day for a year



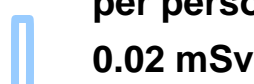
A transatlantic flight



A 400-meter change in altitude



Consuming 200 g of mussels



Annual impact of the emissions from AREVA-La Hague

