



Waste Confidence/Continued Storage



Keith McConnell, Special Assistant
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission



Continued Storage Background

- Historically, Commission's generic determination about spent fuel storage
- Two parts –
 - Waste Confidence Decision
 - Generic statement about storing spent fuel
 - Repository availability
 - Rule codifying environmental impacts
- Court vacated 2010 version

Schedule

2012

2013

2014

Scoping for
GEIS (Generic
Environmental
Impact
Statement)

Develop Draft
GEIS and
Proposed Rule



Public
Comment

Develop Final
GEIS and
Final Rule



Completed Activities

- EIS scoping October 25, 2012 – January 2, 2013
- Scoping Summary Report – March 2013
- Published draft statement and proposed rule on September 13, 2013
 - Comment period ended December 20, 2013
- Draft final statement and rule – July 21, 2014
- Published final statement and rule – September 19, 2014

Rule - Final

- Name changed from Waste Confidence to Continued Storage
- No safety statement
- No statement about repository availability
- Simplified Statement of Considerations

Rule - Final

- a) The Commission has generically determined that the environmental impacts of continued storage of spent nuclear fuel beyond the licensed life for operation of a reactor are those impacts identified in NUREG-2157, “Generic Environmental Impact Statement for Continued Storage of Spent Nuclear Fuel.”
- b) The environmental reports described in §§ 51.50, 51.53, and 51.61 are not required to discuss the environmental impacts of spent nuclear fuel storage in a reactor facility storage pool or an ISFSI for the period following the term of the reactor operating license, reactor combined license, or ISFSI license. The impact determinations in NUREG-2157 regarding continued storage shall be deemed incorporated into the environmental impact statements described in §§ 51.75, 51.80(b), 51.95, and 51.97(a). The impact determinations in NUREG-2157 regarding continued storage shall be considered in the environmental assessments described in §§ 51.30(b) and 51.95(d), if the impacts of continued storage of spent fuel are relevant to the proposed action

GEIS

From Draft to Proposed Final

- Many Changes to Text of GEIS
- Additions
 - Chapter 11 – Glossary
 - Appendix I - High-burn-up fuel
 - Appendix D – Draft GEIS and Proposed Rule Comments and Responses

Administrative

- Staffing:
 - 19 technical staff
 - surging to >25
 - Multiple attorneys from Office of General Counsel
- PNNL and CNWRA contract support

Related Factors

- Government shutdown
 - Postponement of public meeting
- Other ongoing activities
 - Spent fuel pool study
 - Tier III activities
 - Yucca Mountain court decision

Keys to Completion

- Agency commitment
 - Commission priority setting
 - Dedicated organization
 - Strong support from other NRC offices
- Strong commitment to transparency
 - Separate communication team
 - Multiple outreach efforts