Consent-Based Siting

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As we continue to deploy nuclear energy as a solution for decarbonization, increasing access to energy, and tackling climate change, we need to make progress on the back end of the fuel cycle.

The Department of Energy is responsible for managing the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, including finding sites to store and dispose of the spent nuclear fuel.

While spent nuclear fuel is stored safely all over the country, the communities that have the spent nuclear fuel never agreed to host the material long term.
Interim Storage

• Allow for removal of spent nuclear fuel from reactor sites
• Provide useful research opportunities
• Build trust and confidence with stakeholders
• Begin to address taxpayer liability
Consent-Based Siting

- Consent-based siting is an approach to siting facilities that focuses on the needs and concerns of people and communities.
- By prioritizing communities and people, we believe we can find a solution to the decades-long stalemate on managing the nation’s spent nuclear.
- A consent-based approach, driven by community well-being and community needs, is both the right thing to do and our best chance for success.
Notice of Request for Information (RFI) on Using a Consent-Based Siting Process To Identify Federal Interim Storage Facilities

A Notice by the Energy Department on 12/01/2021

AGENCY:
Office of Spent Fuel and Waste Disposition, Office of Nuclear Energy, Department of Energy.

ACTION:
Request for information.

SUMMARY:
The Office of Nuclear Energy (NE), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), requests information on how to site Federal facilities for the temporary, consolidated storage of spent nuclear fuel using a consent-based approach. DOE anticipates that communities, governments at the local, State, and Tribal levels, members of
Request for Information

• Questions on:
  • the consent-based siting process itself
  • removing barriers to meaningful participation—especially for groups and communities who have not historically been well-represented in these conversations
  • interim storage as a component of the nation’s waste management system
• Special focus on ensuring issues of equity and environmental justice are built into the consent-based siting process, as well as the waste management system as a whole
Next Steps

1. Analyzing responses to RFI
2. Further developing consent-based siting process
3. Clarifying our broader strategy for an integrated waste management system
4. Issuing a funding opportunity for interested groups and communities later this year