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
We received ~220 responses as follows:

- Tribes: 3 from Tribal groups, 3 from Tribes
- States: 12 States government organizations, 3 State and Regional Groups, and 3 groups representing State governments or their interests (NCSL, NARUC and ECOS)
- Local governments: 7
- NGOs: ~35
- Environmental Justice organizations: 2
- Members of Academia: ~7
- Industry: ~12
- Labor Union: 1
- Private Citizens: ~132 (including 45 “form” letters)
Common Themes in Comments

• Consent and consent-based siting
• Removing barriers for participation and environmental justice
  • fair process, fair distribution, inter-generational justice
• Interim storage, transportation, and broader comments on integrated-waste management system
• Other
Next Steps

1. Analyzing responses to RFI
2. Further developing consent-based siting process
3. Issuing a funding opportunity for interested groups and communities later this year
4. Clarifying our broader strategy for an integrated waste management system
Website: energy.gov/consentbasedsiting
Email: consentbasedsiting@doe.hq.gov