

Consent-Based Siting

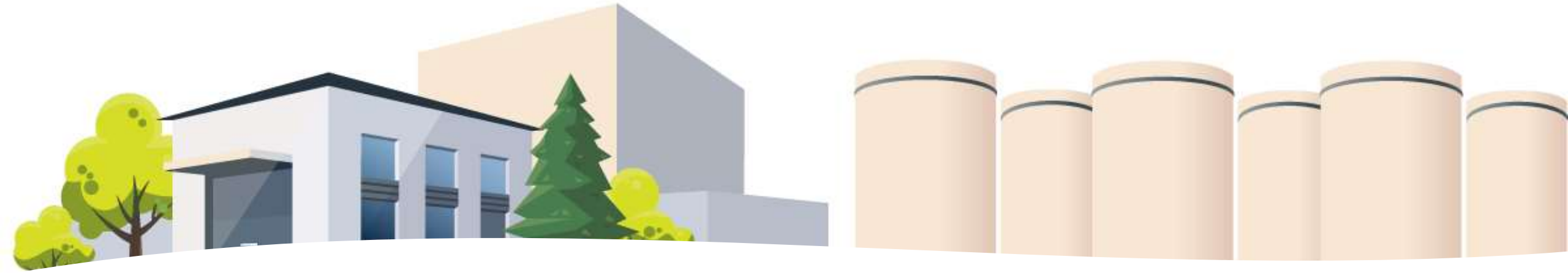
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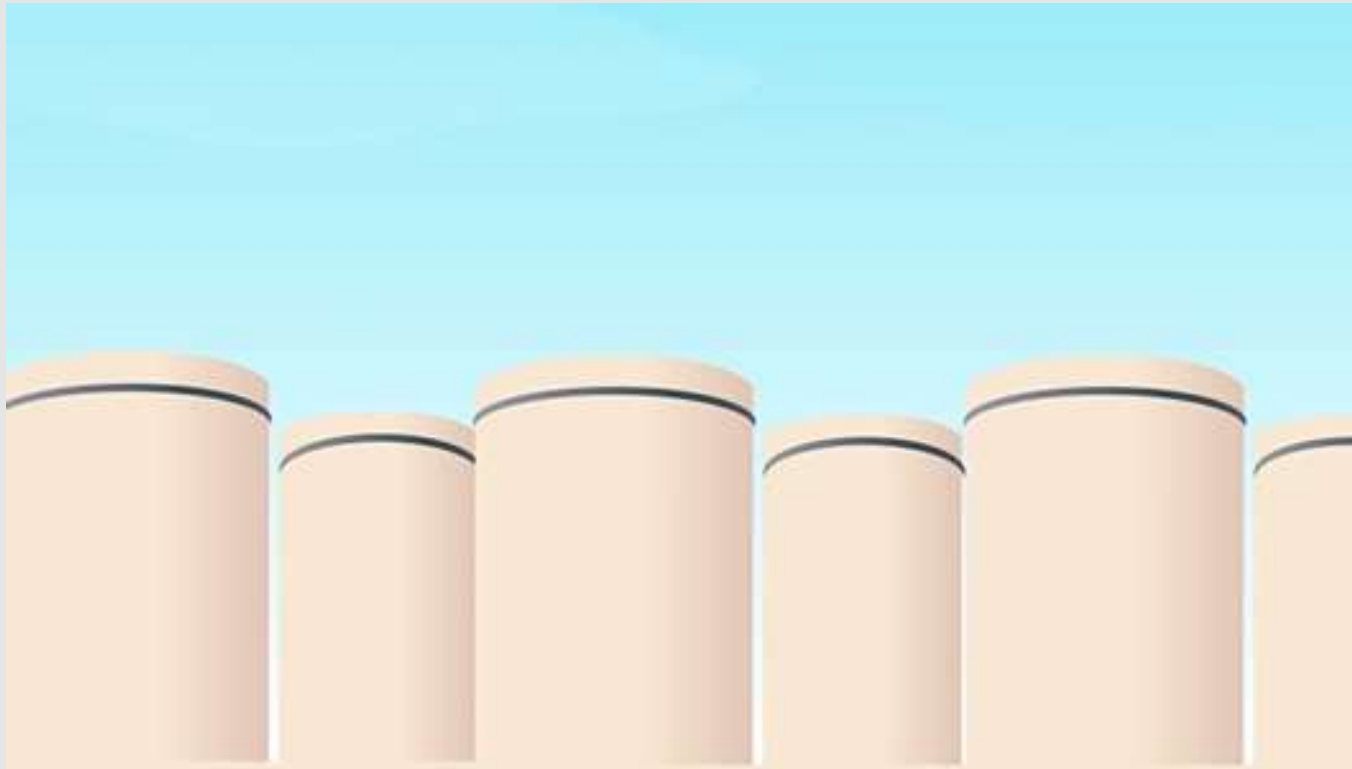
Office on Nuclear Energy

U.S. Department of Energy



Integrated Waste Management

- 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.

Request for Information



FEDERAL REGISTER

The Daily Journal of the United States Government



[N](#) Notice

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



PUBLISHED DOCUMENT

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

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Printed version:

[PDF](#)

Publication Date:

12/01/2021

Agency:

[Department of Energy](#)

Dates:

Responses to the RFI must be received by March 4, 2022 by 6:00 p.m. (ET).

Document Type:

Notice

Document Citation:

86 FR 68244

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 conversation
 - 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

Comments composition

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



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
NUCLEAR ENERGY