

Perspectives from Working with the Permanently Shutdown Plants

Michael Callahan
President
CCMSC CORP
(Consultant to Governmental Strategies Inc)

What Can Be Done

What Must Not Be Done

Actions That Should Be Taken

Waste Confidence

- Waste Confidence is a regulatory concept developed in response to a 1979 court decision.
- Confine effort to deficiencies identified in court decision.
- No comments on spent fuel pool matters from our sites.
- Address “No Repository” in proper perspective.

“Key Insights to the Future of High-Level Waste Management”

- As the Title to this Session – A Few Comments Outside WC, Based on DPC Experience.
- We all recognize
 1. The limitations on NRC on setting broad National Policies, and
 2. The difficult nature of making progress.

Current Conditions

- Administration statement pursuant to BRC.
- House/Senate – Yes, a “stalemate,” but...
- U.S. taxpayer is now officially paying for the federal government’s failure to perform.
- NRC Activities re Decommissioned Plants and our ISFSIs
- Re-Engagement with DOE

What We Can Do

- Recognize that Consolidated Storage is equally if not more, likely as Extended On-Site Storage.
- Engage with and participate in continued discussions between House/Senate/Stakeholders.
- Engagement with DOE.
- Engagement with NRC.

What We Must Not Do

- Bring future on-site concerns forward to near-term requirements.
- Make changes for stand-alone ISFSIs where there is no significant safety benefit.
- Be slow to act.

Actions We Should Take

- Former NRC Chairman Ivan Selin: “ I do wish that I had been more active in saying that steps have to be taken in order to break the logjam in the high-level waste management program. We took a perfectly defensible but ultimately ineffective position that we are regulators, we sit back, you bring us something, and we tell you whether it will work or not.” *(June 28, 1995 hearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Power, House Committee on Energy & Commerce)*

Actions We Should Take

- NRC needs to recognize it has a role in safety and security management/policy.
- Move forward on Consolidated Storage.

Summary

- WC presents opportunity to recognize, again, the nation’s safe spent fuel management capabilities.
- Administration position, Senate, and House dialogue as well as DOE re-engagement presents opportunity.
- Take advantage of opportunities, especially working toward Consolidated Storage.
