

POLICY PRINCIPLES FOR USED NUCLEAR FUEL

The industry's 2050 used fuel management vision: **The U.S. has a durable, safe, environmentally sustainable, and well-run used fuel management and disposal system.**

To achieve this vision, the industry has identified eight essential elements for the U.S. used fuel management program:

- 1. Effective governance structure.** *A dedicated, federally chartered management and disposal organization successfully oversees the used fuel program and is equipped with the authority and resources to maintain efficient and effective operations.*
- 2. Strategic use of the Nuclear Waste Fund.** *The Nuclear Waste Fund is used solely for geologic repository development and operation and, given the substantial investments made by utilities and their customers, no fee should be reinstated unless there is tangible program progress and a clear, justified need.*
- 3. Preservation of contract rights.** *Standard contract holders are not required to waive their rights to recover damages or settle claims resulting from the federal government's failure to meet its contractual obligations as a condition for the acceptance of used fuel.*
- 4. Collaborative siting processes.** *Future siting decisions are made with support and collaboration from tribal, state, and local governments, resulting in widely accepted locations for used fuel management facilities.*
- 5. Operational disposal infrastructure.** *One or more licensed, constructed, and operational geologic repositories safely dispose of used fuel, ensuring long-term environmental protection and public safety.*
- 6. Flexible interim storage solutions.** *The strong safety record of onsite storage supports its continued use and serves as the basis for away-from-reactor consolidated interim storage facilities.*
- 7. Sustainable recycling initiatives.** *Advancements in recycling may allow used fuel to become a valuable resource that enhances economic competitiveness of nuclear reactors and strengthens U.S. energy security.*
- 8. Public and political support.** *There is public and political support for nuclear energy and used fuel management, driven by effective policy advocacy and education efforts.*