AN INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Department is planning for an integrated waste management system to transport, store, and dispose of our nation’s spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. An integrated approach to managing these materials contrasts with the distributed, ad hoc manner in which waste is managed today and provides a long-term, sustainable solution.

COMPONENTS OF AN INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Department envisions an integrated waste management system that may contain:

- pilot interim storage facilities, initially focused on accepting spent nuclear fuel from shutdown reactor sites
- full-scale, consolidated interim storage facilities that provide greater capacity and flexibility within the waste management system
- permanent geologic repositories for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste
- transportation infrastructure to move spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste by rail, road, and barge

A PHASED, ADAPTIVE APPROACH

The Department aims to implement a flexible waste management system incrementally to:

- ensure safe and secure operations
- build trust among stakeholders
- adapt approach based on lessons learned

Moving forward, the Department is committed to a consent-based approach to siting the storage and disposal facilities needed to support a robust integrated waste management system.