

DEFENSE WASTE REPOSITORY

A SEPARATE DEFENSE REPOSITORY

On March 24, 2015, President Obama authorized the Department to develop a separate repository for high-level radioactive waste resulting from atomic energy defense activities. The Department is currently evaluating this option. Establishing a separate repository for defense high-level radioactive waste would:

- isolate the waste materials safely and permanently
- make progress toward meeting Federal government commitments and cleanup from the Cold War legacy
- support national security objectives
- benefit from simpler design and implementation, leading to a faster and less expensive facility
- inform the design, siting, licensing, and successful development of a repository for commercial spent nuclear fuel through lessons learned

WASTE TYPES

Interested host communities of a defense waste repository could have a say in what materials are accepted at a potential site. Types of materials include:

- Defense high-level waste in vitrified glass
- Calcined tank waste
- DOE-managed spent nuclear fuel from research and production activities

