

# **NAVAL NUCLEAR PROPULSION PROGRAM**

- **Joint Navy/Department of Energy organization**
- **Responsible for all Naval nuclear propulsion matters:**
  - **Over 100 nuclear-powered warships**
  - **Over 120 shipboard and land-based naval reactors**
  - **Two moored training ships**
  - **Three land-based prototype naval reactors**
  - **Nuclear safety and radiological matters at naval shipyards and operating bases**
  - **Two research and development laboratories**
  - **Expeded Core Facility at INEL**
- **Over 4400 reactor years of operation, 100 million miles steamed, and 300 refuelings and defuelings**
  - **No reactor accident or any significant effect on the environment**

## AMOUNT OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

	<u>Approximate Amount (Metric Tons Heavy Metal)</u>	
	<u>1995</u>	<u>2035</u>
Naval	10	65
DOE + Naval	2,700	2,800
Civilian	30,000	85,000

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF NAVAL FUEL**

- **Metallic, solid, non-flammable, non-explosive, non-soluble, corrosion resistant**
- **Withstands combat shock loads well in excess of 50 times the force of gravity**
- **Capable of rapidly changing power levels**
- **Totally contains fission products**
  - **Strong incentive - sailors live and work close to shipboard reactor**
- **Possesses long operating lifetime (over 20 years) - reduces amount of spent fuel created**
  - **In storage, metal integrity maintained virtually indefinitely**
- **Two U.S. submarines sank with fuel in 1960's - subsequent surveys show no environmental impact**

## **NAVAL FUEL CYCLE**

- **Spent naval fuel removed from ships and sent to Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL)**
  
- **Spent naval fuel examined at the Expanded Core Facility (under Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program cognizance)**
  - **Examinations support new fuel development and longer core lifetimes - fewer refuelings, less waste**
  
- **After examination, transferred to INEL Idaho Chemical Processing Plant (under other DOE office cognizance) for storage pending ultimate disposal**
  - **In the past, fuel was reprocessed, but DOE ceased reprocessing in April 1992**



DODX  
38870

**NOTICE**  
ALL WORKERS MUST  
WEAR SAFETY  
GLASSES AT ALL  
TIMES AND MUST  
WEAR SAFETY BELTS  
WHEN WORKING  
ON SCAFFOLDS

## **NAVAL SPENT FUEL SHIPPING CONTAINER (M-140)**

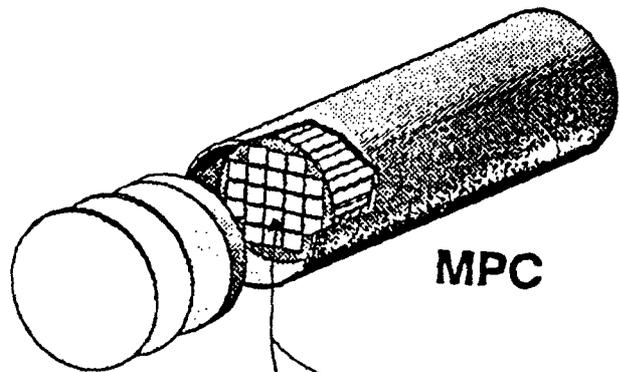
- **Complete containment of contents during normal conditions of transport**
- **Certified by DOE to meet 10 CFR 71 requirements for Type B packaging**
- **Design submitted to NRC for independent review**
- **Certificate of Compliance issued by NRC**
- **No active cooling system necessary**

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION ON  
NAVAL SPENT FUEL SHIPMENTS  
(1957 TO 1995)**

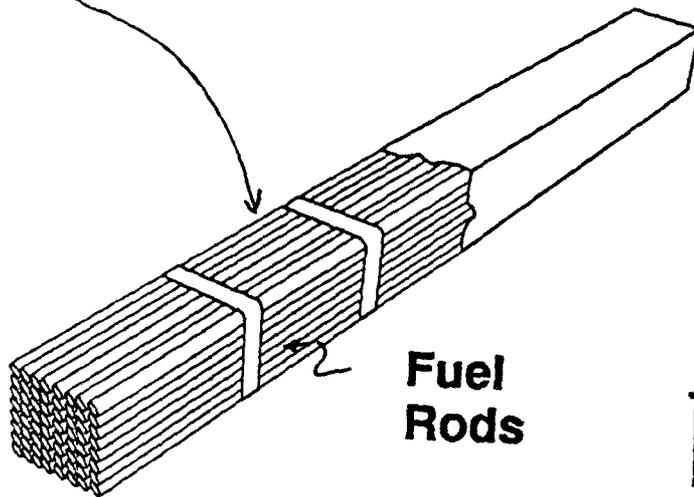
- **All by rail**
- **About 600 container shipments since 1957**
- **Containers shipped dry - no concern for fluid leaks**
- **All naval fuel shipments have been to INEL**
- **No accident resulting in release of radioactivity**
- **Total radiation exposure to entire population along transportation routes less than 0.1 rem annually**

## **PATH FORWARD FOR NAVY FUEL**

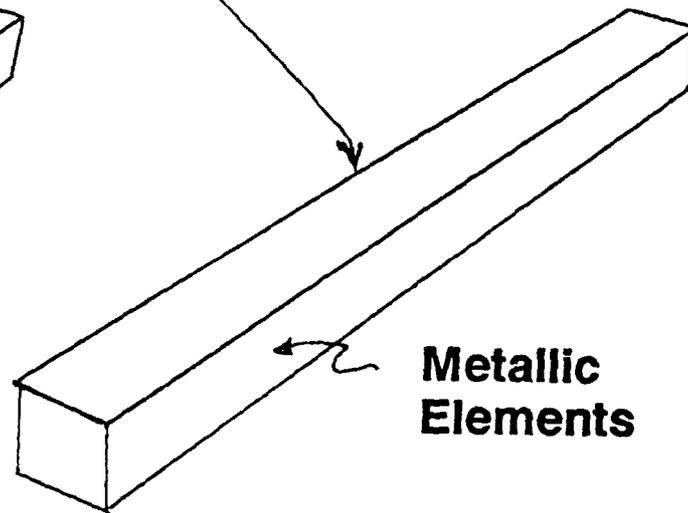
- **Military characteristics of naval fuel mean it will likely prove suitable for direct disposal in repository**
  
- **Naval fuel likely to meet waste acceptance criteria developed for commercial spent fuel**
  
- **Navy participating with DOE in efforts to move forward on ultimate disposition**
  - **Naval fuel included in EIS for Multi-purpose Canister**
  
  - **Naval fuel to be included in NRC license application for MPC**
  
  - **Naval fuel to be included in repository EIS**
  
  - **Naval fuel tested, confirmed not to be RCRA hazardous waste**



**MPC**



**Fuel  
Rods**



**Metallic  
Elements**

**Typical PWR  
Fuel Assembly**

**Typical Naval  
Fuel Modules**

## **MULTI-PURPOSE CANISTER EIS**

- **Will include Navy spent fuel**
  
- **Alternatives**
  - **125 t MPC**
  
  - **75 t MPC**
  
  - **No Action - (M-140)**
  
  - **High capacity transport - (Modified M-140)**
  
  - **Transportable storage cask system - (NAC-STC)**
  
  - **Dual-purpose canister system - (NUHOMS MP-187)**

## MPC COMPARISONS (125 TON)

<u>Modules</u>	<u>Loaded with 21 PWR Assemblies<sup>(a)</sup></u>	<u>Loaded with Typical Navy</u>
Metric tons total metal (MTTM) of fuel assemblies	14	12
Metric tons heavy metal (MTHM) of fuel assemblies	10	0.4
U-235 BOL Enrichment	3.75	97
U-235 Content (kgm)	364	360

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<sup>(a)</sup> Basis: Table 1.8, ORNL, Integrated Data Base for 1993 (March 1994) (17 x 17 Westinghouse Design)