

SNAKE RIVER
ALLIANCE
IDAHO'S NUCLEAR WATCHDOG & CLEAN ENERGY ADVOCATE



Idaho: A Non-Consent State

**Presentation to the
Idaho LINE Commission**

June 29, 2012

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The Snake River Alliance

MISSION

The Snake River Alliance serves as **Idaho's nuclear watchdog and Idaho's advocate for renewable and nuclear-free energy.** We raise community awareness about the dangers of nuclear waste, weapons and power while working to identify and promote sustainable alternatives. We do our work through advocacy, collaboration, education and grassroots organizing.

VISION

We envision **responsible solutions to nuclear waste** and a nuclear-free future. We seek to strengthen Idaho's economy and communities through the implementation of renewable energy sources in Idaho and the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation.



**The Alliance is a
statewide,
member-based
organization**



We do our
work through
outreach,



We do our
work through
outreach,
education,



We do our
work through
outreach,
education,
and *advocacy.*

Idaho is a Non-Consent State

Robert Erkins, Buhl trout farmer, forwards concerns to Governor Don Samuelson about nuclear waste above the aquifer.

1973

Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission declines to endorse commercial spent fuel storage in Idaho.

1969

Governor Andrus and Senator Church ask the Atomic Energy Commission for assurances that Idaho was not being considered as an interim storage site for high-level waste.

1974

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1988

State of Idaho bans plutonium-contaminated waste shipments from Rocky Flats Plant, Colorado.

State of Idaho sues and unsuccessfully seeks injunction against Ft. St. Vrain commercial spent fuel shipment.

1991

1992

State of Idaho tries to stop Ft. St. Vrain commercial spent fuel shipments in federal Court of Appeals and US Supreme Court.

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Federal District Court grants State of Idaho's request for an injunction stopping spent fuel shipments.

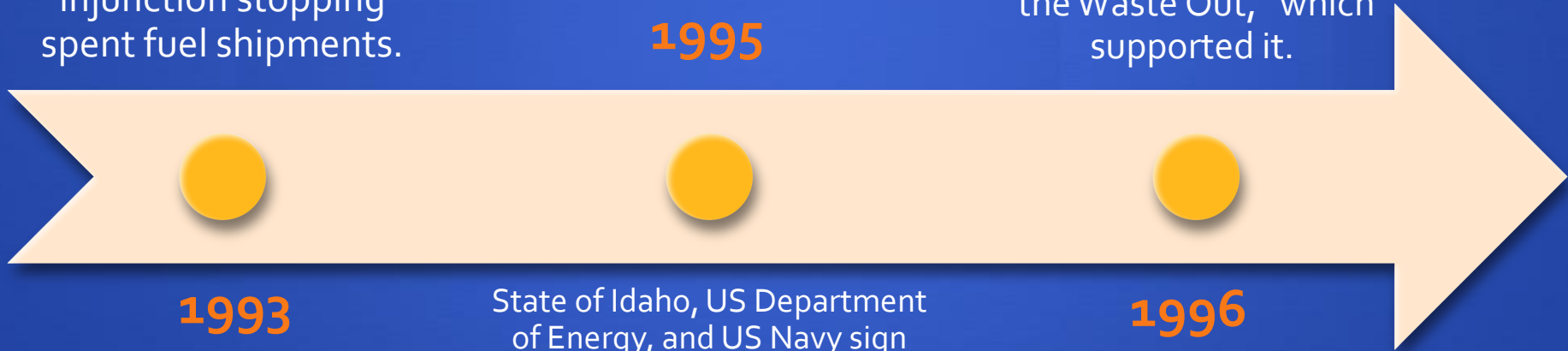
1995

Statewide referendum pitted "Stop the Shipments," which opposed the agreement as being too weak, against "Get the Waste Out," which supported it.

1993

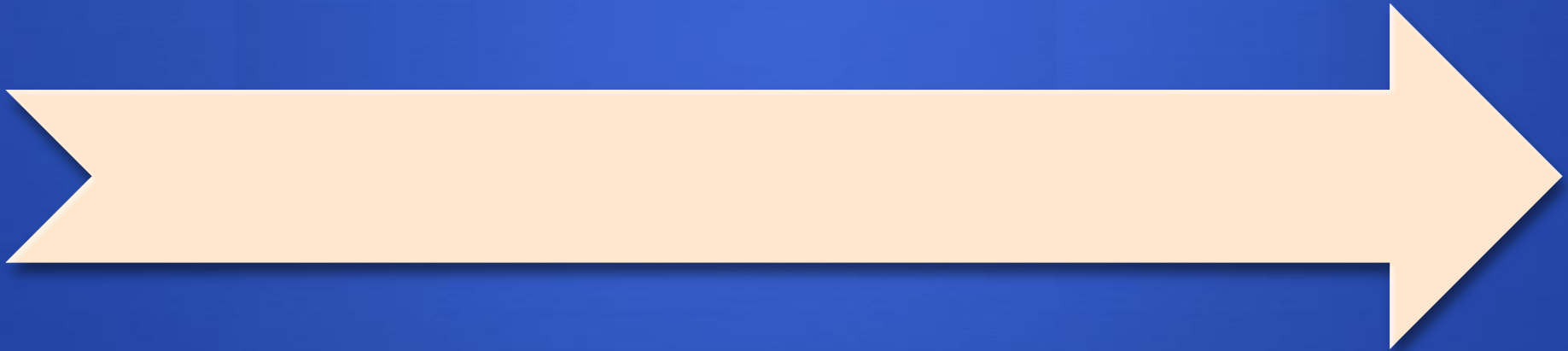
State of Idaho, US Department of Energy, and US Navy sign agreement that reaffirms cleanup commitments and regulates what waste can and cannot come to Idaho (and under what circumstances) and what waste must leave (most by dates certain).

1996



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During these same decades the **Shoshone-Bannock Tribes** were pushing back against nuclear waste shipments crossing the Fort Hall Reservation



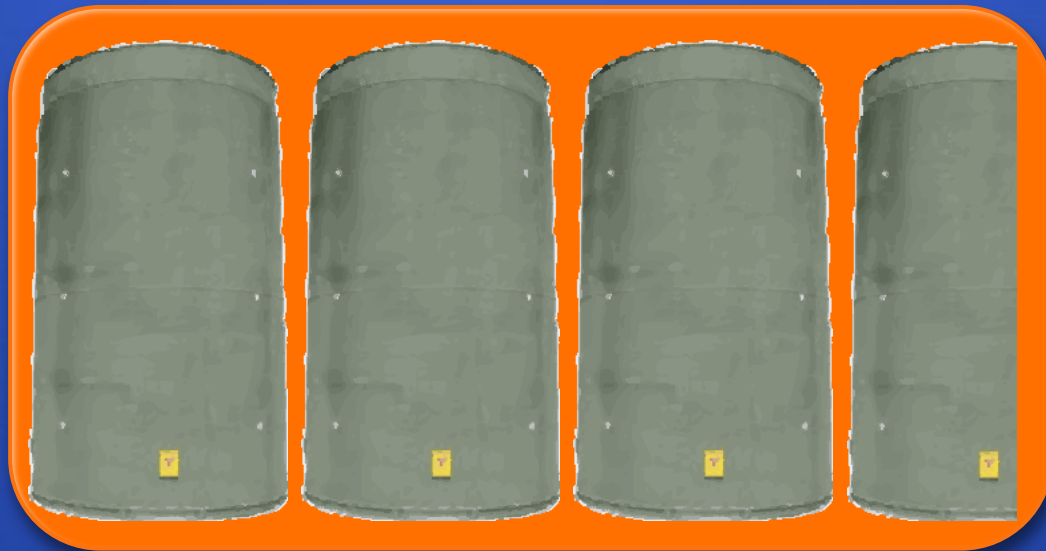
Idaho's Nuclear Past



36 Metric Tons of Nuclear Navy Waste Still Stored at INL



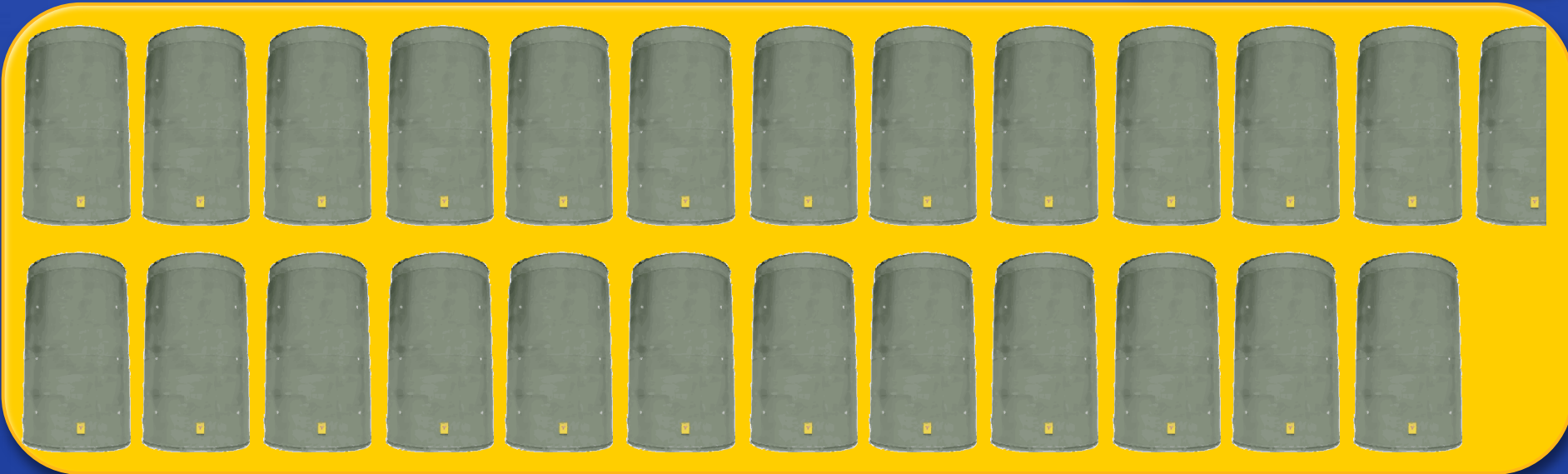
= 10 metric tons



246 metric tons of non-defense spent fuel still at INL



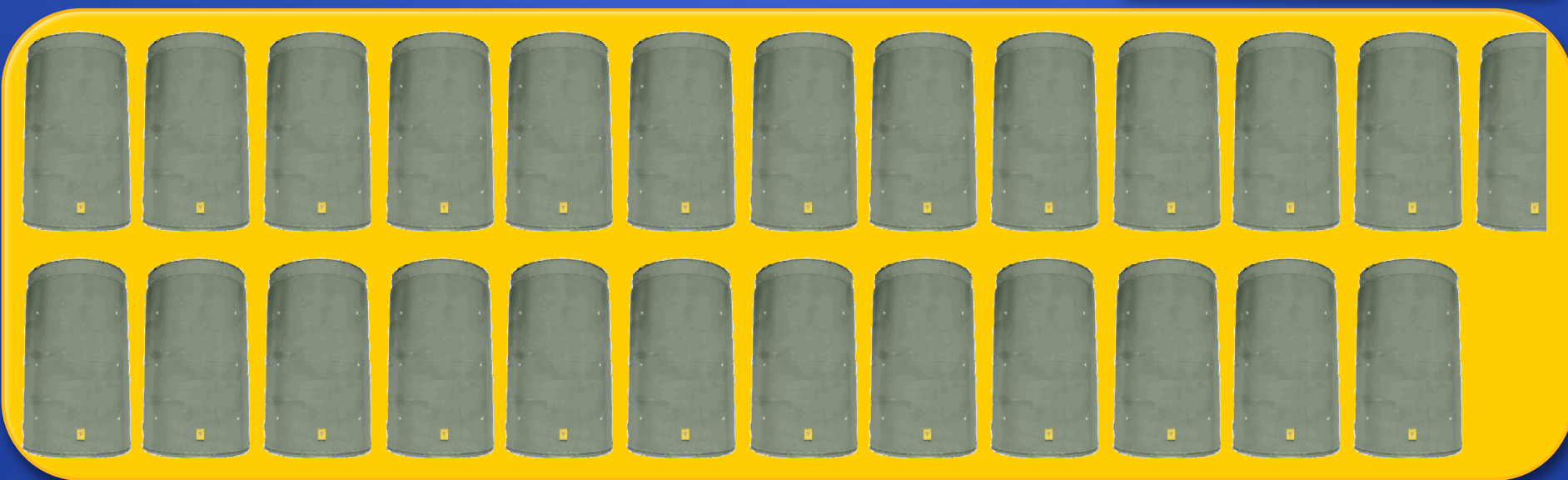
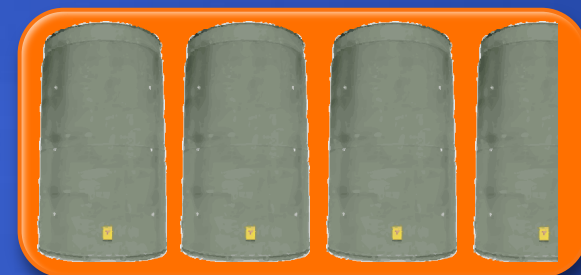
= 10 metric tons



282 metric tons TOTAL spent fuel at INL

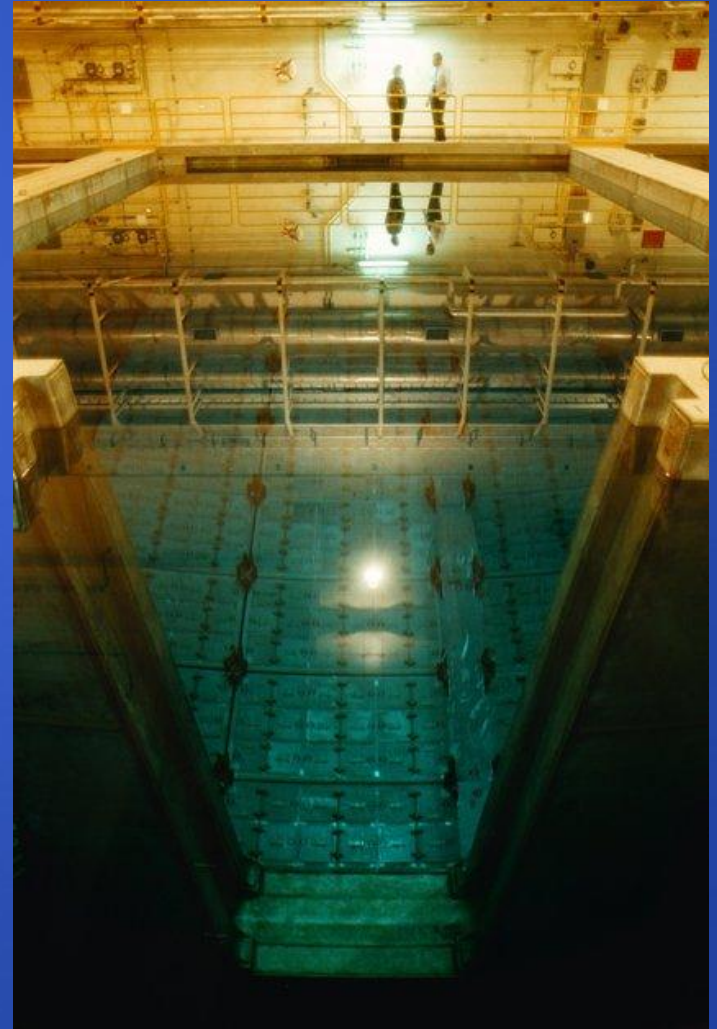


= 10 metric tons



Idaho hosts 250 different types of intensely radioactive spent fuel

- From US and foreign research reactors
- Commercial demonstration reactors such as Peach Bottom
- The core debris from Three-Mile Island
- Almost all of INL's own waste from its 52 nuclear reactors



Idaho's Nuclear Present

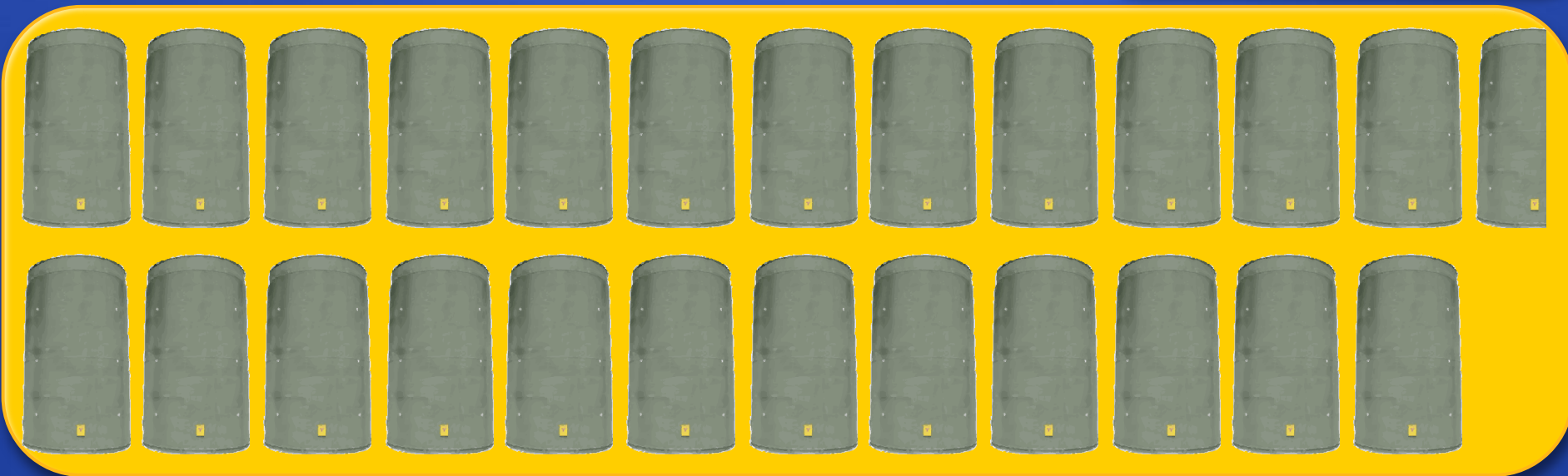
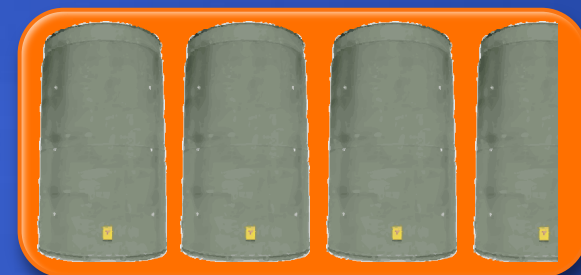
- Average of 20 shipments of nuclear navy waste each year
- Controlled amounts of spent fuel from research reactors here and abroad (foreign shipments end in 2019)
- Since 2011 “research quantities” of spent nuclear fuel may come to Idaho



282 metric tons TOTAL spent fuel at INL



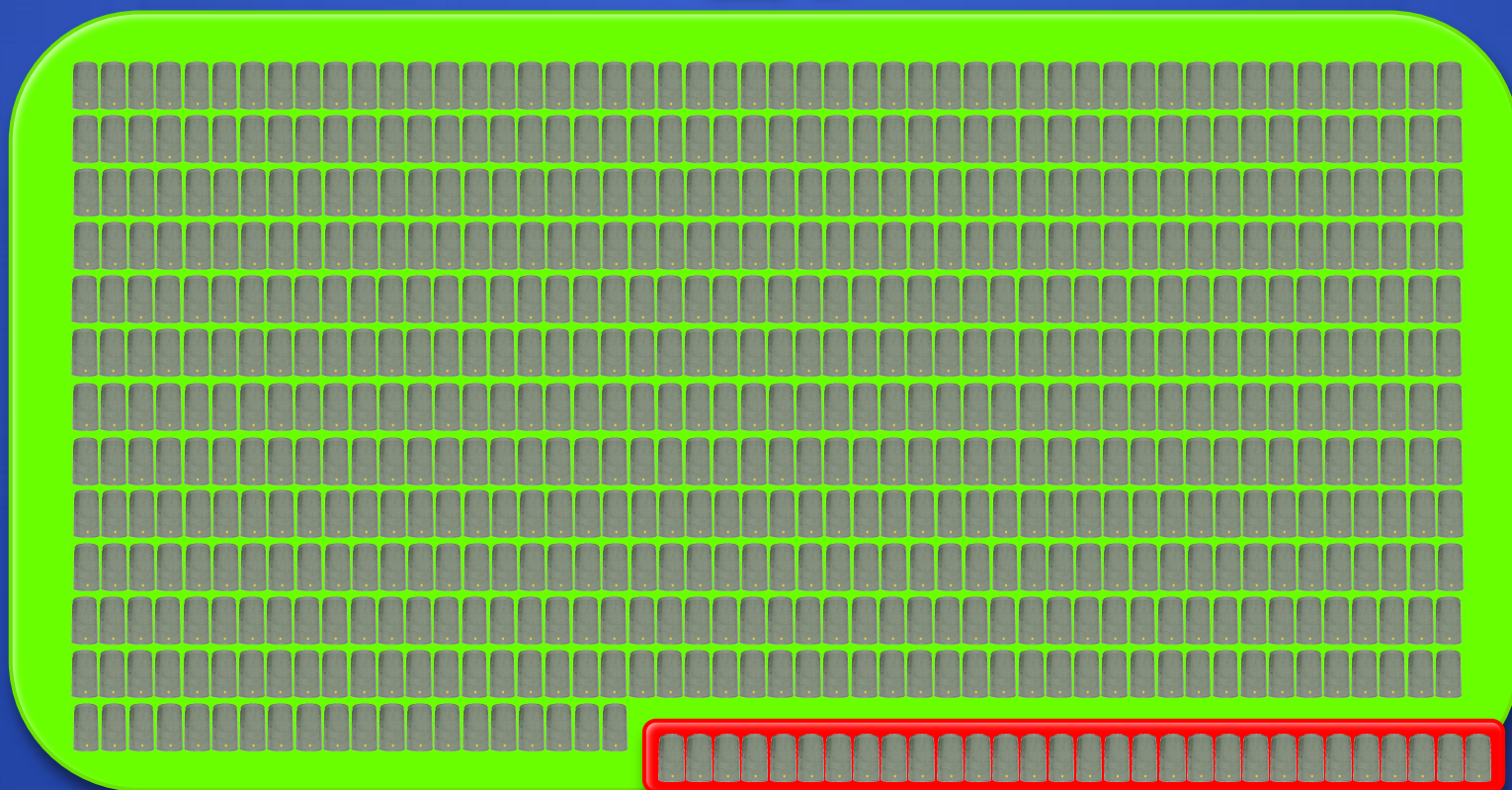
= 10 metric tons



Waste from Operating and Shut-Down Commercial Nuclear Reactors



= 100 metric tons



62,000 metric tons from currently operating reactors
Nearly 3,000 metric tons from already closed reactors

Idaho is Too Great



BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON AMERICA'S NUCLEAR FUTURE



Report to the Secretary of Energy

————— JANUARY 2012 —————

BRC Recommendations

1. **A new, consent-based approach to siting future nuclear waste management facilities.**
2. **A new organization dedicated solely to implementing the waste management program and empowered with the authority and resources to succeed.**
3. Access to the funds nuclear utility ratepayers are providing for the purpose of nuclear waste management.
4. Prompt efforts to develop one or more geologic disposal facilities.
5. **Prompt efforts to develop one or more consolidated storage facilities.**
6. Prompt efforts to prepare for the eventual large-scale transport of spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste to consolidated storage and disposal facilities when such facilities become available.
7. Support for continued U.S. innovation in nuclear energy technology and for workforce development.
8. Active U.S. leadership in international efforts to address safety, waste management, non-proliferation, and security concerns.

Idaho is a Non-Consent State



Nuclear Research at INL

- If needed, should be:
 - Purposeful
 - Necessary
 - Focused
 - Conducted to solve real, discrete societal needs
 - Not reprocessing



BRC Does Not Recommend Reprocessing



"It is the Commission's view that it would be premature for the United States to commit, as a matter of policy, to "closing" the nuclear fuel cycle given the large uncertainties that exist about the merits and commercial viability of different fuel cycles and technology options."

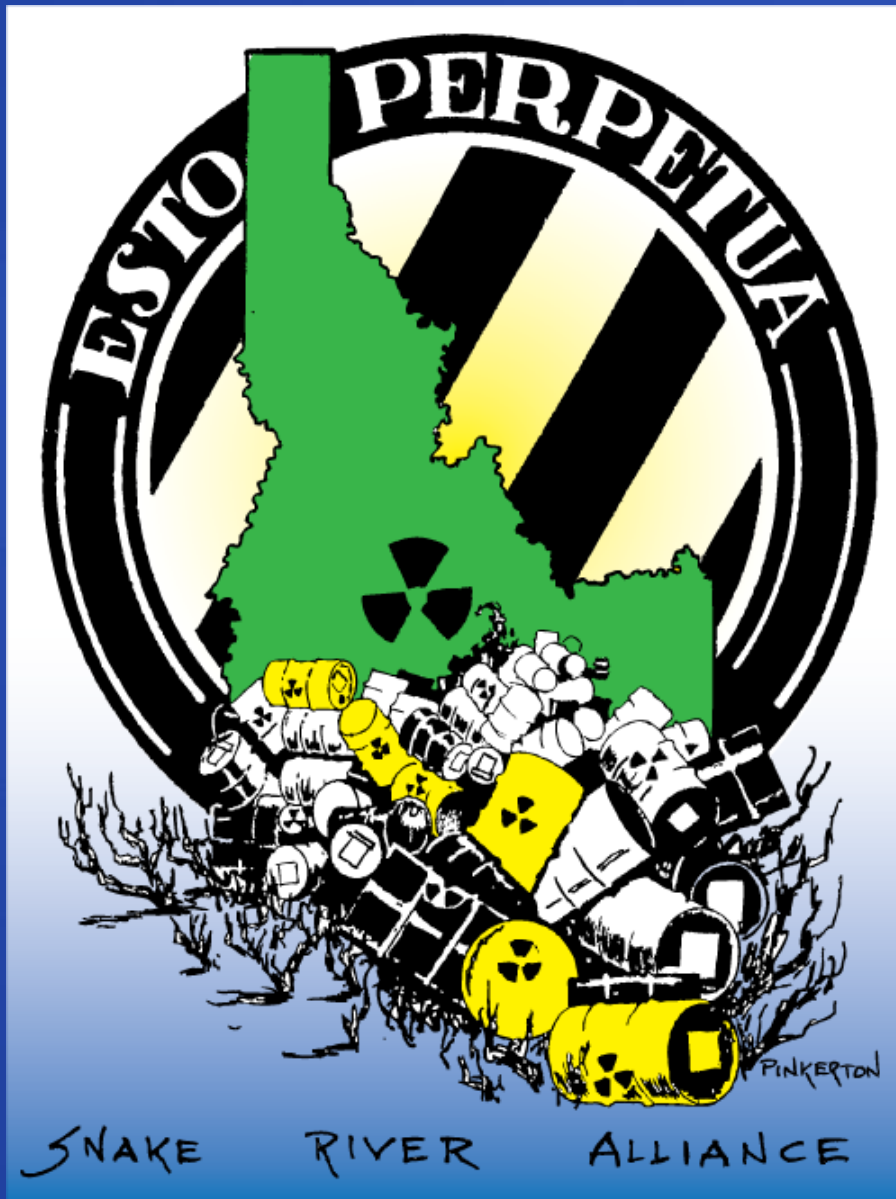
Clean-Up Cannot be Jeopardized

- **Liquid sodium-bearing high-level waste** must be removed from the buried tanks and dried.
- The **buried tanks** must be cleaned out and closed.
- The **calcined, or dried, high-level waste** must be removed from the bins and put in a solid – not powdered – form.
- An engineered cap or caps must be built at the **Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center** so precipitation doesn't drive remaining contamination down to the aquifer.
- Targeted **plutonium-contaminated waste** must exhumed.
- The entire 97-acre **burial grounds** must be covered with an engineered cap so precipitation doesn't drive remaining contamination down to the aquifer.

The Idaho LINE Commission

- Full transparency
- Full access to meetings (no “closed” meetings)
- Adequate access to public comment to the commission
- Recommendations that reflect Idahoans’ concerns
- Recommendations that keep whole the 1995 Agreement and Idaho’s long-history of opposition to commercial radioactive waste





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