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Daniel Ogg is a member of the senior professional staff at the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board. The views expressed in this article do not necessarily represent those of the Board or the U.S. government.

DOE-managed HLW. DOE will also have to develop and obtain NRC approval of transportation casks for all DOE-managed SNF and HLW, unless the department chooses to use an existing transportation cask design. Additional types of new casks may be required for transporting some commercial SNF that cannot be transported in existing transportation casks.

Finding 3. The Board finds that DOE will have to complete existing canister designs or develop new cask and canister designs for storing and transporting SNF and HLW. The Board also finds that the time needed to develop new cask or canister designs for SNF or HLW can be greater than a decade. Therefore, DOE will need to allow for considerable advance planning and early coordination with the NRC during the development of new cask and canister designs.

Recommendation 3. The Board recommends that for planning purposes, DOE should allow for a minimum of a decade to develop new cask and canister designs for SNF and HLW storage and transportation, or DOE should conduct its own detailed evaluation of the time needed to complete design, licensing, fabrication, and testing of new casks and canisters.

As the Board continues its independent evaluation of DOE activities related to nuclear waste management, it expects to review and evaluate additional topics related to the department’s research and analysis of transporting SNF and HLW.

References


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CONTACT US:
Jeff England, Director of Transportation and Packaging Solutions
Phone: +1 770-447-1144 | jengland@nacintl.com