



2002

Finland's radioactive waste management program

Low-level radioactive waste

In 1992, Finland's Olkiluoto nuclear plant at Eurajoki began on-site shallow geologic disposal of low-level radioactive waste. In 1998, low-level radioactive waste was disposed of at Finland's Loviisa nuclear plant also.

repository. The Finnish waste-disposal company Posiva Oy will research possible sites and plans to start building the repository in 2010. For more than twenty years, Finland has studied nuclear waste disposal in crystalline rock. Recommendation for the construction of a single, deep geologic repository for spent nuclear fuel disposal was the outcome of a study conducted by Posiva Oy.

The Finnish waste package design and clay buffer system is being developed in cooperation with the Swedish program, a good example of the type of international cooperation that is occurring in radioactive waste management. A Finnish repository would not begin operation until 2020.

2001

Spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste

Spent nuclear fuel is kept in temporary storage at Finland's reactor sites pending repository licensure. Spent nuclear fuel is cooled for one to three years in reactor pools, then shipped in transfer casks for additional pool storage at the same site.

2000

Reprocessing spent nuclear fuel

Finland stopped sending spent nuclear fuel to Russia for reprocessing in 1996.

Transporting radioactive waste

Before 1996, Finland's Loviisa nuclear power plant shipped its spent nuclear fuel to Russia. Trucks carried the spent nuclear fuel destined for reprocessing from reactors to railcars. Rail casks and transport cars were leased from Russia. The last delivery to Russia took place in 1996. Current Finnish law forbids the export of nuclear waste.



U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management

YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT

P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307
1-800-225-6972
<http://www.ymp.gov>

DOE/YMP-0410
June 2001



1998

Deep geologic disposal plans

In May 2001, Finland became the first country to approve plans for a geologic



