

Milestones

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Reporting Year: 2004

Start Year or Reference Year:	2004	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
License application submitted for new LLW disposal facility serving the Texas Compact by Waste Control Specialists, LLC			
Start Year or Reference Year:	2003	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
The USA ratified the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management in April 2003. The US fully participated in the first review meeting held in November 2003.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	2002	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
In July 2002, the U.S. Congress approved final legislation approving development of a geologic repository at Yucca Mountain. The legislation was then signed into law by President Bush.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	2000	End Year:	2004
Description of Milestone:			
Construction begins in 2000 on Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Facility designed to repackage and treat legacy transuranic waste at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. Operation begins in 2003 and shipments to WIPP begin in 2004.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1999	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
After completion of all regulatory and legal requirements, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant geologic repository begins disposal of transuranic waste.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1998	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
DOE releases its viability assessment for the Yucca Mountain site investigations.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1997	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
The Department of Energy releases its Final Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. Decisions resulting from this analysis covered high-level waste treatment, transuranic storage and disposal, low-level waste storage and disposal, and hazardous waste disposal.			

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Start Year or Reference Year:	1997	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
The Department of Energy initiates a sealed radioactive source acceptance program.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1996	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Vitrification of high-level waste begins at Savannah River Site and West Valley Demonstration Project.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1996	End Year:	1998
Description of Milestone:			
The Department of Energy achieved its complex-wide waste reduction goal of reducing waste by 50% compared to its 1993 baseline between 1996 and 1998.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1992	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Congress enacts the Federal Facility Compliance Act, requiring the federal government agencies to submit plans for treatment of mixed hazardous and radioactive waste to state agencies and the Environmental Protection Agency.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1989	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
The Department of Energy creates the Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Program (later called Environmental Management) to focus agency efforts on cleanup of government legacy radioactive waste sites.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1988	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Congress gives consent to 3 low-level waste compacts. Several other compacts are formed, but no new regional repositories have moved to construction, although several were proposed but political and technical issues were not overcome.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1987	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Congress directs the Department of Energy to investigate only the Yucca Mountain Site, Nevada, for a potential repository ending studies on the remaining 8 sites. Characterization studies begin.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1983	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Nine potential repository sites are selected in 6 states in various geological media for further consideration.			

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Start Year or Reference Year:	1983	End Year:	1988
Description of Milestone:			
Full construction begins at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant after completion of initial shafts and exploratory characterization.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1982	End Year:	1983
Description of Milestone:			
The Nuclear Waste Policy Act becomes law directing the Department of Energy to find and characterize a repository site for spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1980	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Congress gives the Department of Energy responsibility for demonstrating high-level waste solidification at West Valley, New York, a former commercial reprocessing plant, under the West Valley Demonstration Project Act.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1980	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Congress passes "superfund" legislation, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, aimed at cleanup of hazardous, toxics and radioactive waste sites. The legislation creates a trust fund to finance investigation and cleanup of abandoned and uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1980	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Congress enacts the Low-level Radioactive Waste Policy Act to promote commercial low-level waste disposal compacts for regional disposal.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1980	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Final Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Commercially Generated Radioactive Waste is issued			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1979	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Congress authorizes the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, near Carlsbad, New Mexico, to demonstrate the safe disposal of transuranic waste			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1978	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Congress gives authority to the Department of Energy for stabilization and control of inactive uranium mill tailing sites under the Uranium Mill Tailing Radiation Control Act.			

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Start Year or Reference Year:	1977	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
The U.S. Department of Energy, a cabinet level agency, is formed from the Energy Research and Development Administration.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1975	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
A presidential decision is made not to reprocess commercial spent nuclear fuel in favor of a once-through fuel cycle			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1975	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
The Atomic Energy Commission is disbanded. In its place are created the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission with regulatory jurisdiction over US commercial nuclear power and the Energy Research and Development Administration which manages the government's nuclear complex.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1975	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and Toxic Substances Control Act, two environmental statutes dealing with hazardous waste, become law, having significant impacts on radioactive waste management in the USA.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1974	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
The Atomic Energy Commission chooses a site in southeast New Mexico near Carlsbad for exploratory repository work.			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1970	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Congress enacts legislation requiring environmental impact analysis for all major federal actions, including waste management projects, under the National Environmental Policy Act. The Clean Air Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act become the first of several environmental laws impacting waste operations			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1970	End Year:	1972
Description of Milestone:			
The Atomic Energy Commission proposes salt deposits near Lyons, Kansas, for permanent disposal of radioactive waste. In just two years the project was abandoned due to technical and political issues.			

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Start Year or Reference Year:	1970	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
The Atomic Energy Commission begins to classify and separately manage long-lived transuranic waste from low-level waste			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1968	End Year:	1983
Description of Milestone:			
Cesium and strontium are separated from Hanford high-level waste and made into capsules for storage and reuse			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1963	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Idaho Chemical Processing Plant begins to calcine high-level waste into a dry granular powder for interim storage			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1957	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
The National Academy of Sciences concludes radioactive waste could be safely disposed in a variety of geologic media within the USA			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1956	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
The National Academy of Sciences recommends salt as a geologic disposal media			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1952	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Waste management, including low-level waste disposal and storage of high-level waste, begins at Savannah River Site continuing to the present			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1946	End Year:	1975
Description of Milestone:			
Atomic Energy Commission established to administer nuclear energy programs			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1944	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Waste operations begin at Hanford Site. Over the ensuing decades millions of gallons of high-level waste will be generated and stored pending future treatment and conditioning and burial grounds continue to dispose of solid radioactive waste.			

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Start Year or Reference Year:	1943	End Year:	
Description of Milestone:			
Chemical research activities begin at X-10 plant, predecessor to Oak Ridge National Laboratory			
Start Year or Reference Year:	1942	End Year:	1945
Description of Milestone:			
Manhattan Project creates radioactive waste at several sites in the USA			