



Contribution ID: 22

Type: Oral

The History and Future Plans for the Wet and Dry Long Term Spent Fuel Storage Experiments at Canadian Nuclear Laboratories

Tuesday, 25 June 2019 08:30 (20 minutes)

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) in Chalk River, Canada has two experimental long term storage programs for spent nuclear fuel: wet storage and dry storage. The objective of both programs is to determine the length of time spent nuclear fuel can be safely stored in specific environmental conditions and to characterize the condition of the fuel as a function of time via periodic examinations. Both programs were initiated in the 1970's and have stored fuel in wet and dry conditions in excess of 50 years and 40 years, respectively. This paper discusses the history of CNL's long term storage programs, a summary of previous results, and preliminary plans for continued experimentation commencing in 2019.

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Country or International Organization

Canada

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Session Classification: Session 2.1

Track Classification: Track 2: Spent Fuel and High Level Waste storage and subsequent transportability