



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY



Accelerated Basin De-inventory (ABD) Mission at the Savannah River Site

Jeffrey Bentley

Senior Program Manager, Nuclear Materials Stabilization, Department of Energy –
Savannah River

Citizens Advisory Board

September 27, 2022

What is ABD

- **Opportunity to align resources at the Savannah River Site (SRS) to reduce overall liability.**
 - Integrates with the Liquid Waste system, which is available until 2033.
 - Will discard dissolved Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) into awaiting Liquid Waste sludge batches.
 - Sludge batches are ultimately vitrified into glass waste canisters at the Defense Waste Processing Facility to be disposed in a future federal repository.
- **ABD mission benefits:**
 - Reduces long term risks and liability and accelerates disposition of SNF.
 - Completes Mission in 11-years.
 - Continues SNF receipts, while SNF disposition methods are developed by Offices of Science and Nuclear Energy.



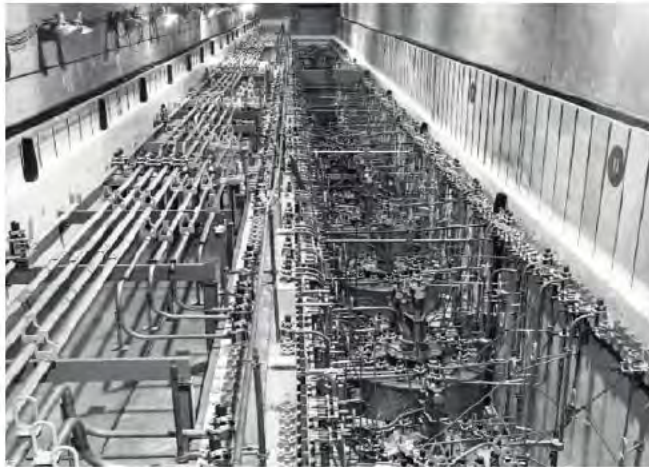
L-Basin SNF Storage



Oak Ridge High Flux Isotope Reactor

What is ABD (cont'd)

- **Continues to maintain high state of capability within H-Canyon.**
 - Ability to return systems to recovery operations.
 - Simplified operations allows relocation of personnel to other critical shortage areas and does not require a reduction in overall jobs.
 - Reduces immediate infrastructure needs and cost savings allows for more near-term maintenance to be performed.



H-Canyon Processing Equipment

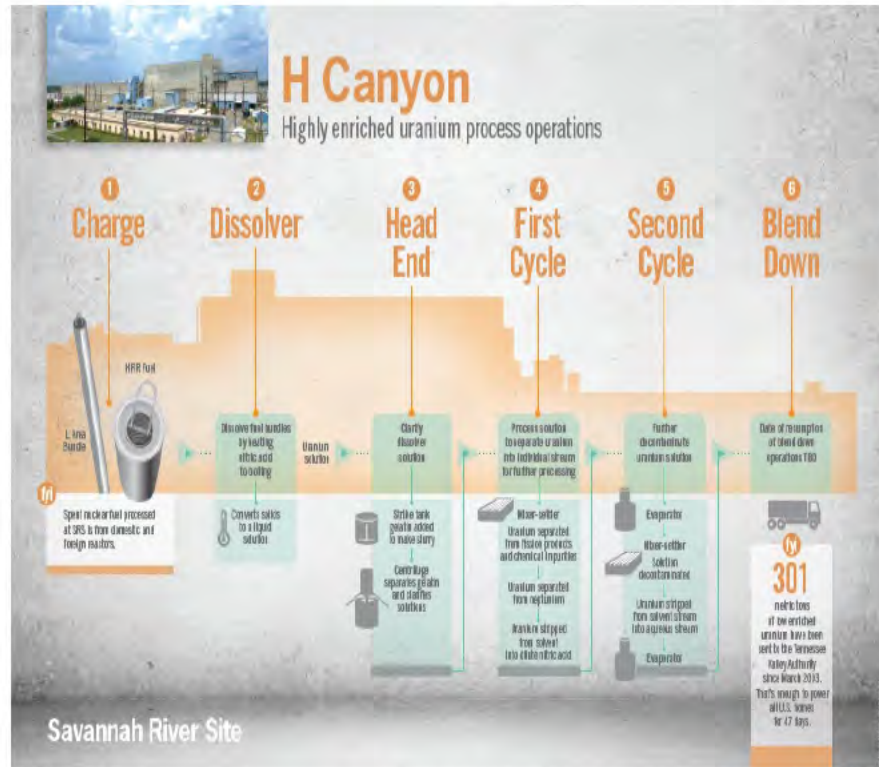


H-Canyon Facilities

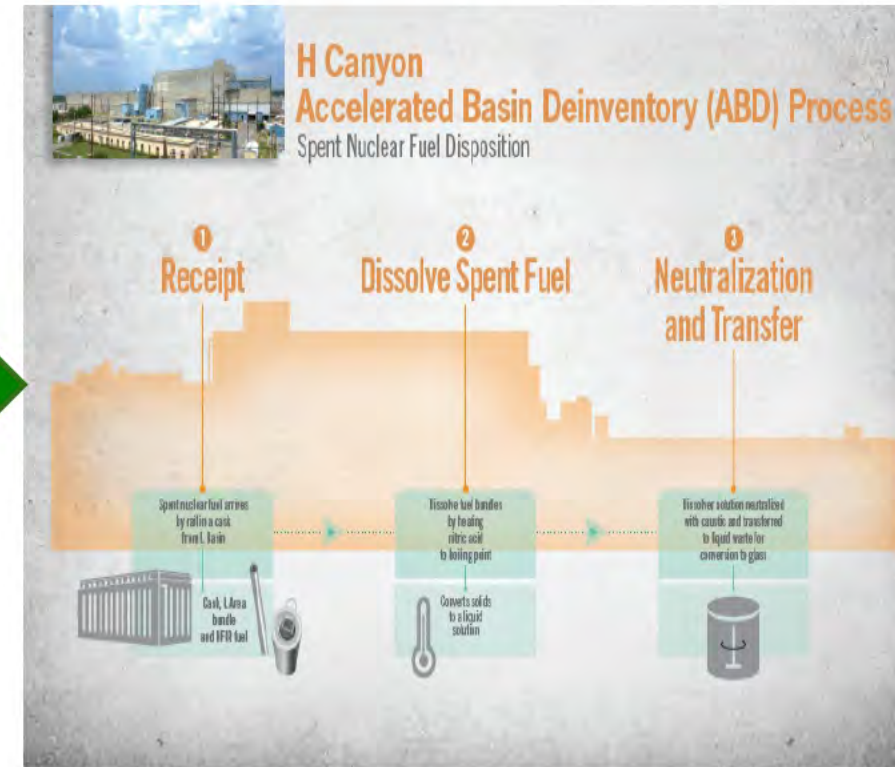


H-Canyon Overhead Crane

Mission Comparison



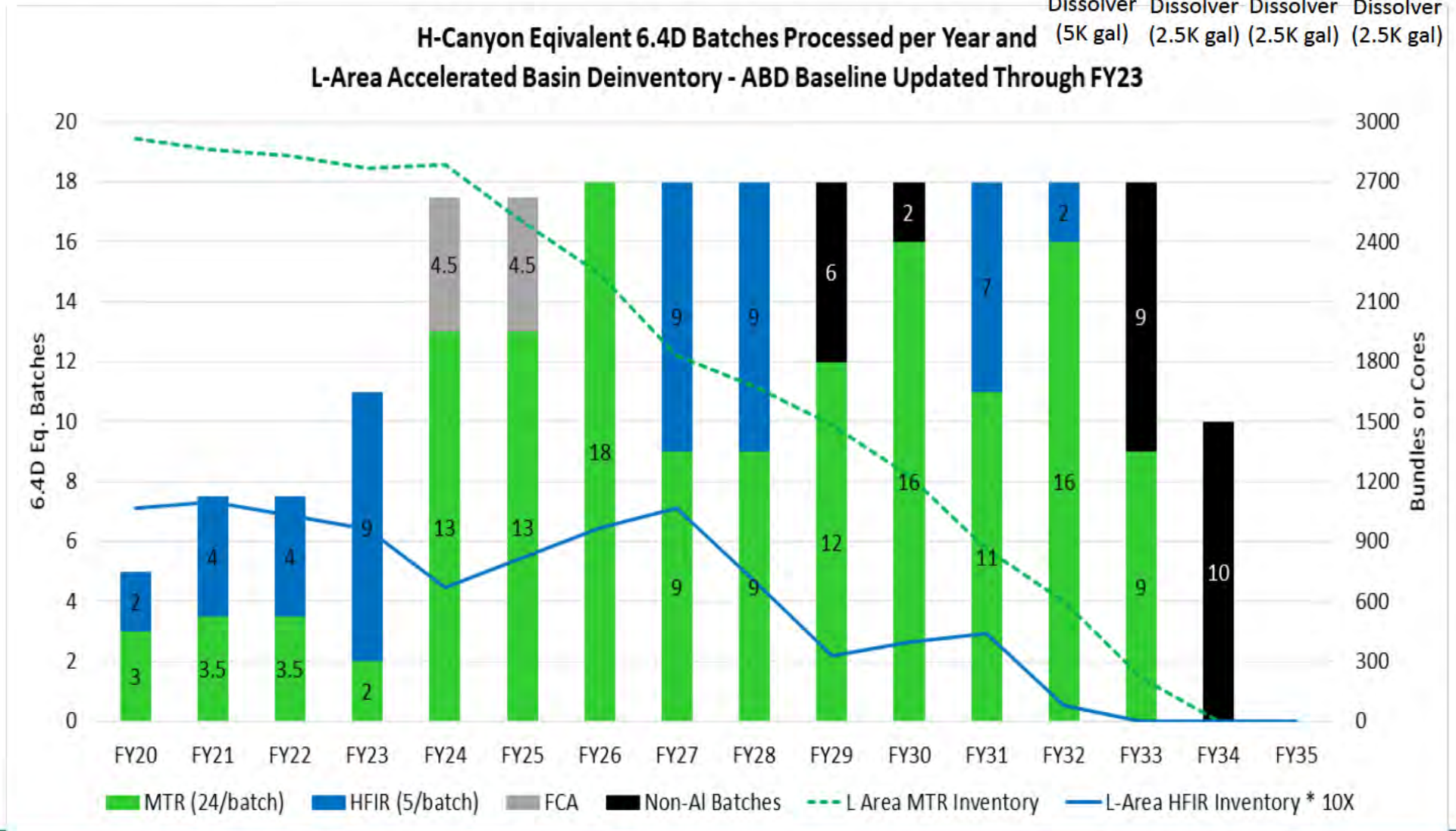
Prior Mission



Approved ABD Mission

Transition from uranium recovery to ABD significantly simplifies the operations processes within H-Canyon, reducing risk, operating cost, and accelerating the throughput rate.

ABD Lifecycle Throughput



Benefits of ABD

- **Aligning with the Environmental Management (EM) priority clean-up mission.**
 - Accelerates disposition of legacy SNF by more than 20 years (2033 vs 2055).
- **Making the most efficient use of the Canyon while it is available.**
 - The Canyon is expensive to maintain and operate and is 70 years old.
 - Reduces needed infrastructure investments.



221-H Hot Crane Runway/ Power
Rails with Water Intrusion Shown



Corroded/Failing
Caustic Header

- **Reducing, to the maximum extent possible, the L-basin material that will remain once the Canyon is no longer available.**
 - We will reduce the cost of managing that material.
 - Eliminates the need for dry storage.

Benefits of ABD (cont'd)

- **Providing L-basin storage space to support other DOE programs.**
- **Integrating with the existing Liquid Waste System.**
 - Able to disposition SNF while the Liquid Waste facilities are still operational.
- **Remaining flexible.**
 - Ability to return to uranium recovery operations if deemed necessary.
 - Still incorporate other missions as necessary (Fast Critical Assembly).
- **Creating a safer work environment.**
 - Eliminates security risk associated with storing HEU.
 - Creates a “Greener” process by reducing use of chemicals potentially harmful to workers and environment.

Where Are We Today?

- **Mission was approved in April.**
 - Required documentation was signed and published in the Federal Registry.
 - Included an environmental analysis to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
 - Included vetting through the Deputy Secretary of Energy.
- **Preparations for 1st sludge batch discard.**
 - Integrating with Liquid Waste to complete necessary adjustments to discard material.
 - Remaining safety analyses are working and will complete prior to any transfers.
 - 1st transfer to begin as early as December 2022.
- **Providing benefits to Stakeholders.**
 - Reducing lifecycle cost and taxpayer liability.
 - Eliminating security concerns with storage of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU).