



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

OFFICE OF  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT**

# SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel Program Update

---

**Larry McDaniel**

*Spent Nuclear Fuel Program Manager*  
Savannah River Site

Presented to the CAB  
Sep 2023

## SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Program Update

- Mission
- L Basin Overview
- L Basin Storage
  - Wet
  - Dry
  - Capacity Rollup
- Cask Processing
- Receipts
- Shipments
- Recent Accomplishments
- Summary



**L-Area Facility**

# SRS Spent Fuel Program Mission

- Receive and store aluminum-based SNF from foreign & domestic research reactors
- Support National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) nonproliferation effort for removal of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) from reactor sites (~34 Foreign Countries)
- Support Office of Nuclear Energy and the Office of Science ongoing reactor programs (~5 Domestic)
- Store legacy SRS nuclear materials
- Package and ship fuel for disposition



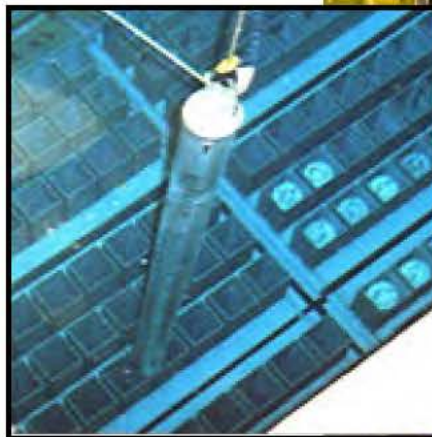
L-Basin





# L-Basin Overview

- Steel-reinforced concrete structure
- Approximately 3.4 million gallons of water
- Pool depth of 17' to 50'
- Water provides shielding for worker safety
- No active cooling
- Systems to maintain water level, clarity, and purity
- Storage configurations include:
  - Expanded Basin Storage (EBS) Racks
  - High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) Racks
  - Oversized Can (OSC) Racks
  - Bucket Storage Racks
  - Bucket Storage Rows



**Vertical Tube  
Storage**



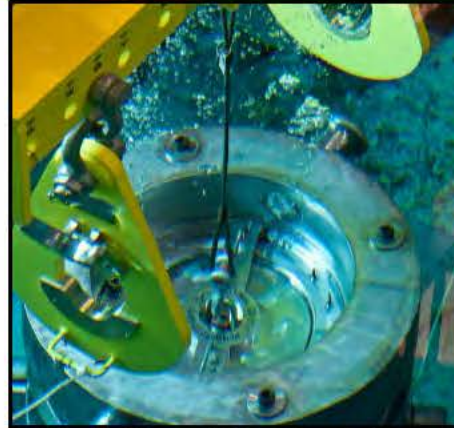
**L-Basin**



# Example Cask Processing



**Receive Cask/  
Removed Impact Limiters**



**Cask Placed Under Water**



**Lid Removed**



**Cask with fuel ready for verification**



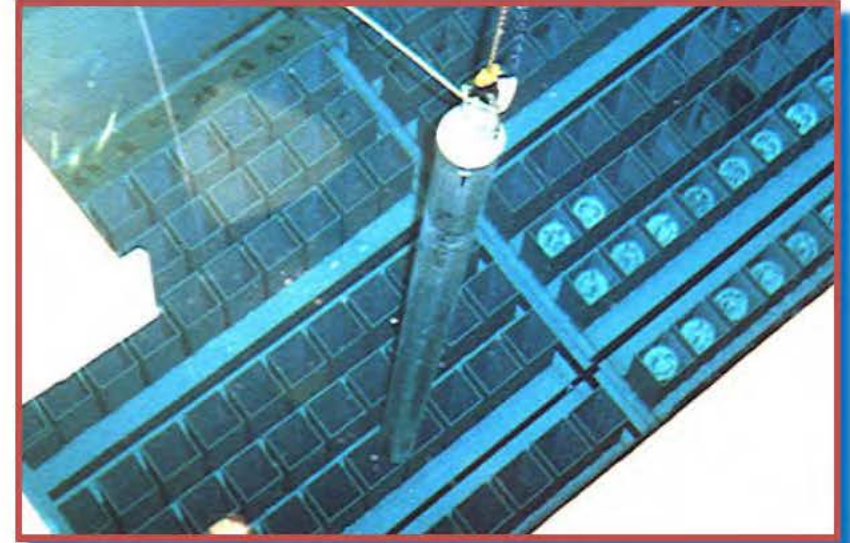
**Fuel Removal & placed in bucket for  
transfer to Basin from Transfer Bay**



**Decon, Reassembly &  
Ship Empty Cask**

# L Area Basin Storage

- **Expanded Basin Storage (EBS) Racks**
  - Fixed geometry for criticality control
  - 3650 positions
  - 3156 occupied
  - Space to add more racks if needed



Fuel bundle being lowered  
into storage rack

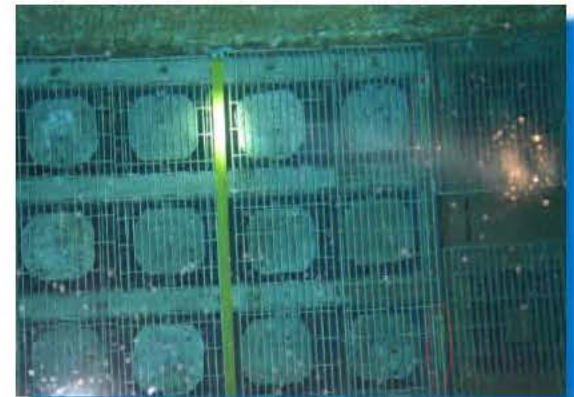


# L Area Basin Storage

- **HFIR Racks**
  - 120 positions
  - 71 occupied
- **Bucket Storage Racks**
  - 36 positions
  - 4 occupied
- **Oversize Can (OSC) Racks**
  - 42 positions
  - 23 occupied
- **Bucket Row Storage**
  - 39 positions
  - 26 occupied



HFIR  
Core



OSC  
Rack

# L Area Dry Fuel Storage

- **Disassembly Area Dry Fuel Storage Area**
  - 23 Drums (full)
- **Slug Vault Dry Fuel Storage Area**
  - 16 Drums (full)



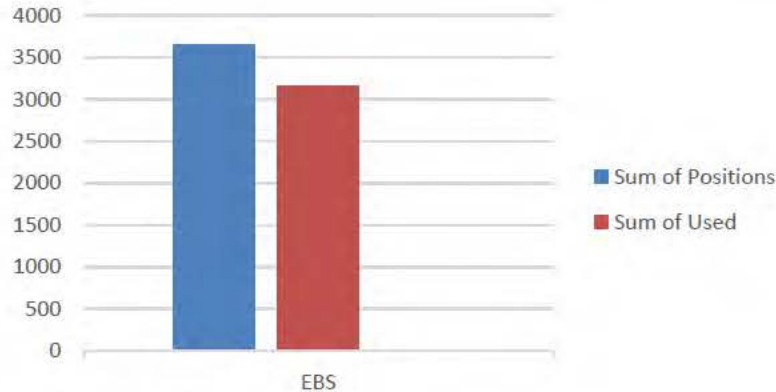
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Drums (55 gal)



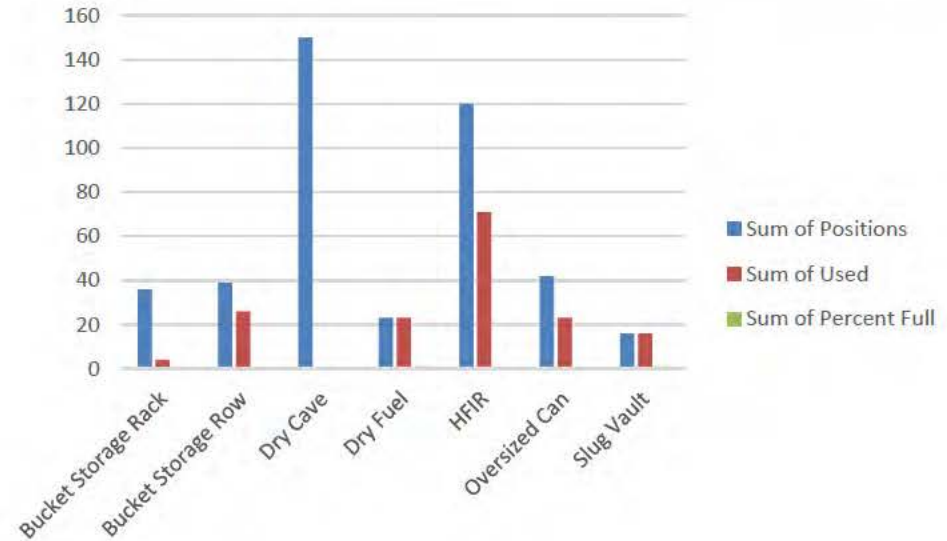
Mound Drums (30 gal)



# L-Basin Capacity Rollup



Type	Positions	Used	Percent Full
Slug Vault	16	16	100%
Oversized Can	42	23	55%
Dry Fuel	23	23	100%
Bucket Storage Rack	36	4	11%
Bucket Storage Row	39	26	67%
EBS	3650	3156	86%
HFIR	120	71	59%



# Spent Fuel Cask Examples



TN-7/2



JRF-90Y-950K



GE-2000



LWT



JMS-87Y-18.5T



BRR



JRC-80Y-20T



# Fuel Receipts

- **FY23 Receipts**
  - Foreign Research Reactors: 2 casks / 12 assemblies
  - Domestic Research Reactors: 18 casks / 64 assemblies & 12 HFIR cores
- **FY24 Forecast Receipts**
  - Foreign Research Reactors : 5 casks / 134 assemblies
  - Domestic Research Reactors : 16 casks / 32 assemblies & 12 HFIR cores



← BRR Cask



GE2000 Cask →

# Fuel Shipments

## FY23 Shipments (casks)

Material Test Reactor Fuel: 3

HFIR: 10

- **FY24 Forecast Shipments (casks)**

- Material Test Reactor Fuel: 16

- HFIR: 3

- Mark 18 A Target: 3

SRS 70-Ton  
Cask →



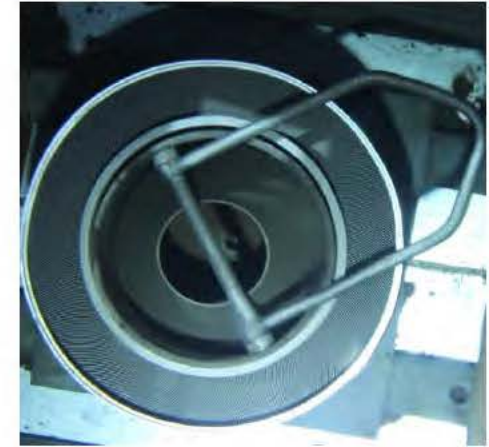


# Recent Accomplishments

- 1) HFIR Cleaning
  - 1996 Deionizer install
  - Resin cannot be dissolved
  - 5 years of Resin discharge
  - 60 cores/5 Rows
  - 2023 Completion



Before



After

- 2) Roof Replacements
  - ~20 years old
  - Leaks caused by failed roof
  - FY23 Bldg 704, 910/911



# Recent Accomplishments

## 3) Augmented Monitoring and Condition Assessment Program (AMCAP)

- CAB recommendation early 2000's
- Supports ABD by Identifying challenges
- Helps identify early signs of container degradation for legacy SNF



## 4) Idaho National Lab (INL) Drum Venting

- 2007/8 Drums arrive
- 2018 Calculation Identified possible issues
- Jun 2023 mitigation IAW local procedures
- Added ~100 years of safe storage.



Before



After



# Summary

- Mission
- L Basin Overview
- L Basin Storage
- Cask Processing
- Receipts
- Shipments
- Recent Accomplishments
- Department continues to safely receive and store SNF to reduce global threat.
- Basin annual inventory volume will continue to decrease in support of ABD