Timeline History of Deep Geologic Repository Program

1950s
Active investigation began on the concept of deep geologic repositories for disposal of radioactive waste

1970s
U.S. studied feasibility of reprocessing commercial spent nuclear fuel to extract plutonium; approach later canceled, leaving disposal as primary option for managing radioactive waste.

1980
DOE issued the final environmental impact statement: *Management of Commercially Generated Radioactive Waste.*

1981
DOE issued a record of decision announcing its determination to pursue deep geologic disposal for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

1982
Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, establishing a site-selection process for a deep geologic repository.

1986
DOE issued environmental assessments for five potential sites; recommended three of the five sites for characterization. President Reagan approved the recommendations.

1987
Congress amended the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to direct DOE to characterize only Yucca Mountain as a potential repository.

1995
DOE issued a notice of intent to prepare the Yucca Mountain Repository environmental impact statement.

1998
DOE obligated by the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to take title to spent nuclear fuel.

1999
DOE issued draft Yucca Mountain Repository environmental impact statement.

2001
DOE issued supplement to the draft environmental impact statement. DOE issued documents relevant to site suitability and a potential site recommendation.

2002
DOE issued final Yucca Mountain Repository environmental impact statement. DOE made site suitability determination and recommendation.

2008
DOE submitted a license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

2010
Yucca Mountain Repository funding ceased.

Yucca Mountain repository program ceased.

Program ceased before DOE received construction authorization.

Program ceased before repository emplacement operations began.

2024
Federal consolidated storage facility (CSF) critical decision (CD-0) granted.

2025