



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Waste Disposition Update

**Environmental Management
Site-Specific Advisory Chairs Meeting**

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Office of Disposal Operations**

October 20, 2011



EM Environmental Management

safety ✦ performance ✦ cleanup ✦ closure

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1

DOE's Waste Management Priorities

- Continue to manage waste inventories in a safe and compliant manner.
- Address high risk waste in a cost-effective manner.
- Maintain and optimize current disposal capability for future generations.
- Develop future disposal capacity in a complex environment.
- Promote the development of treatment and disposal alternatives in the commercial sector.
- Review current policies and directives and provide needed oversight.



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EM is treating radioactive tank waste . . .

Hanford – 176M curies

Idaho – 37M curies

Savannah River Site –
379M curies

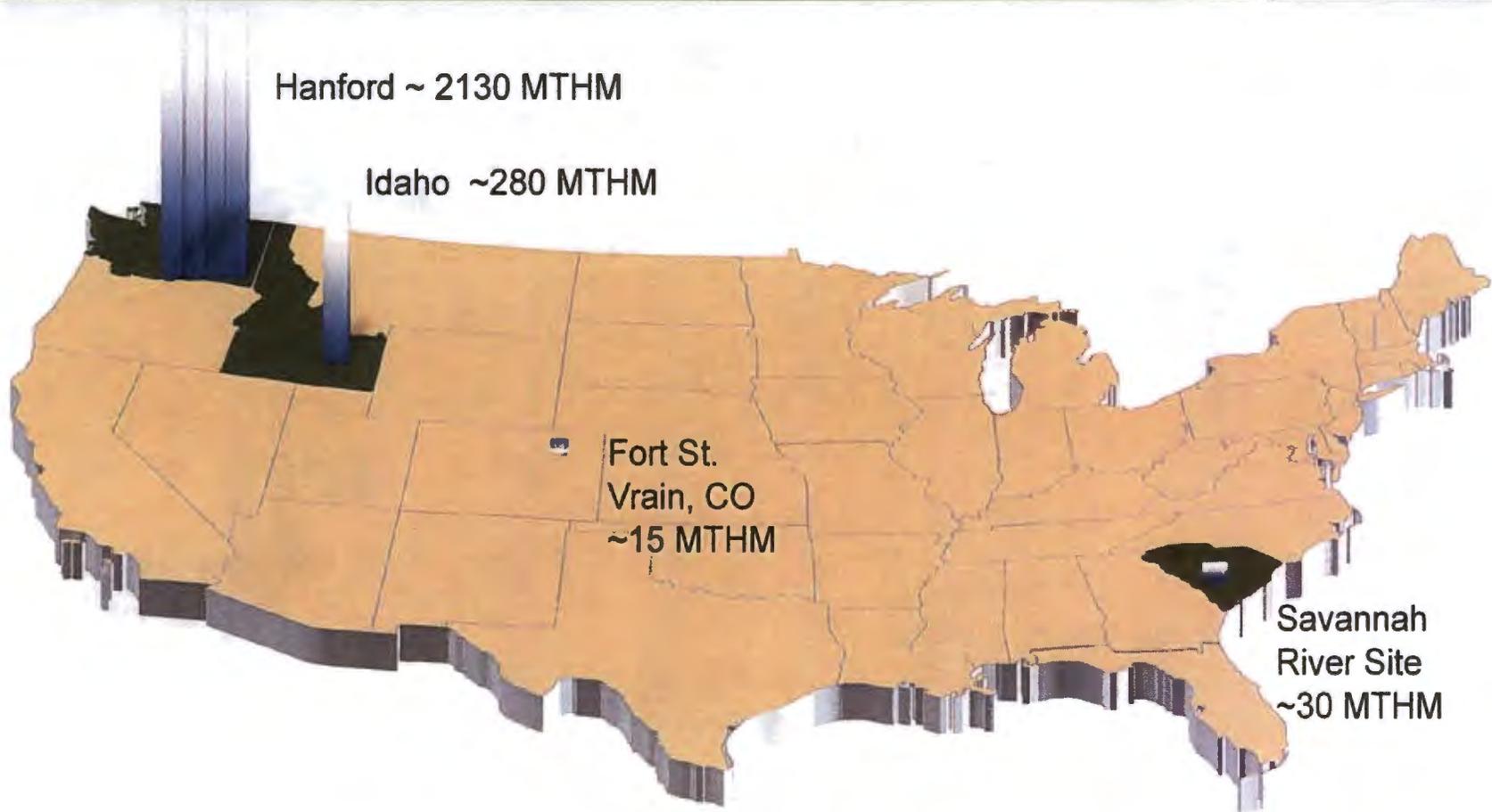


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... storing spent nuclear fuel ...

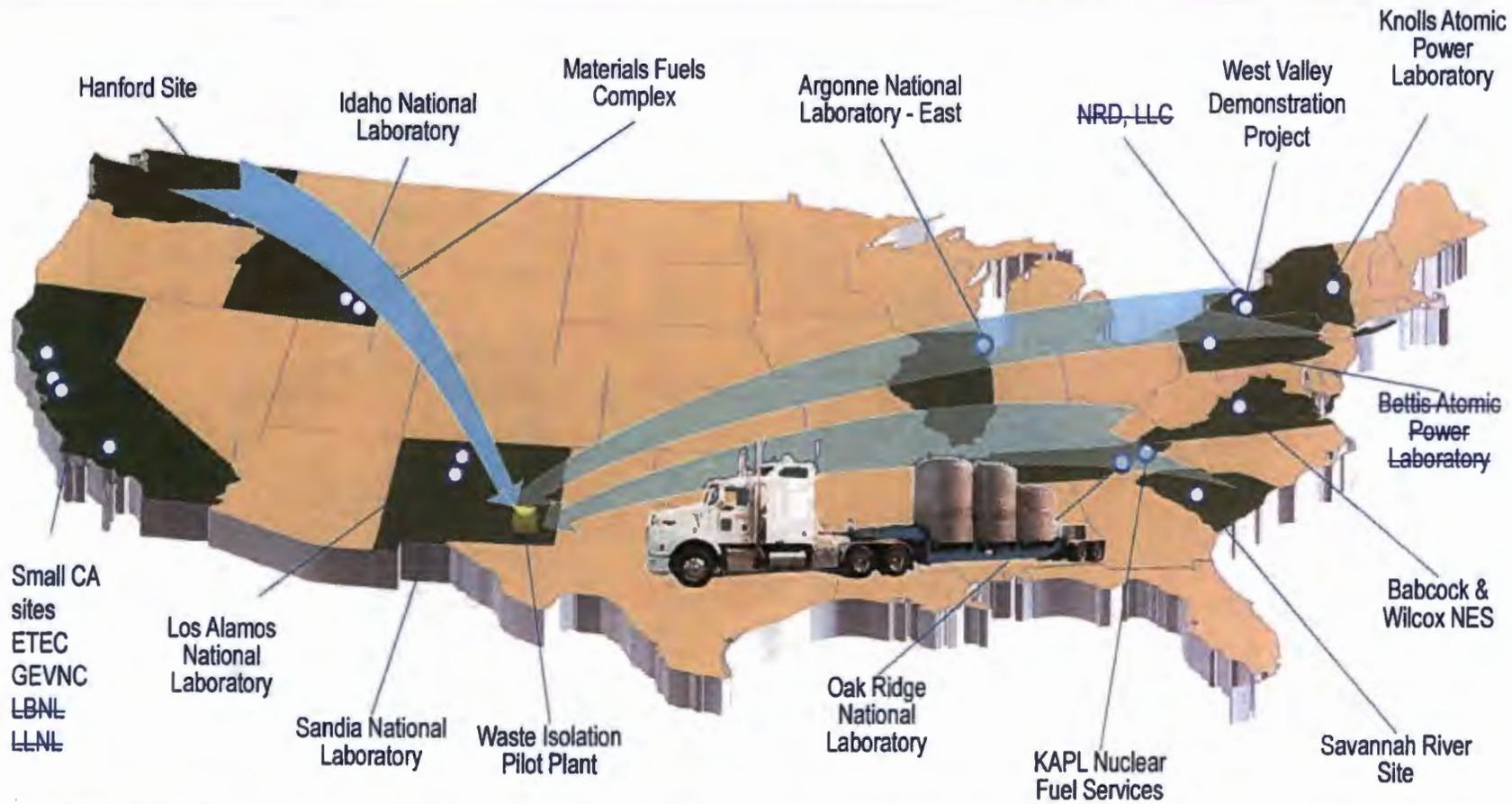


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... disposing of transuranic wastes....



Shipments
> 10,000

Safe Loaded Miles
Approx. 12,000,000

Total disposed to date
78,395m³



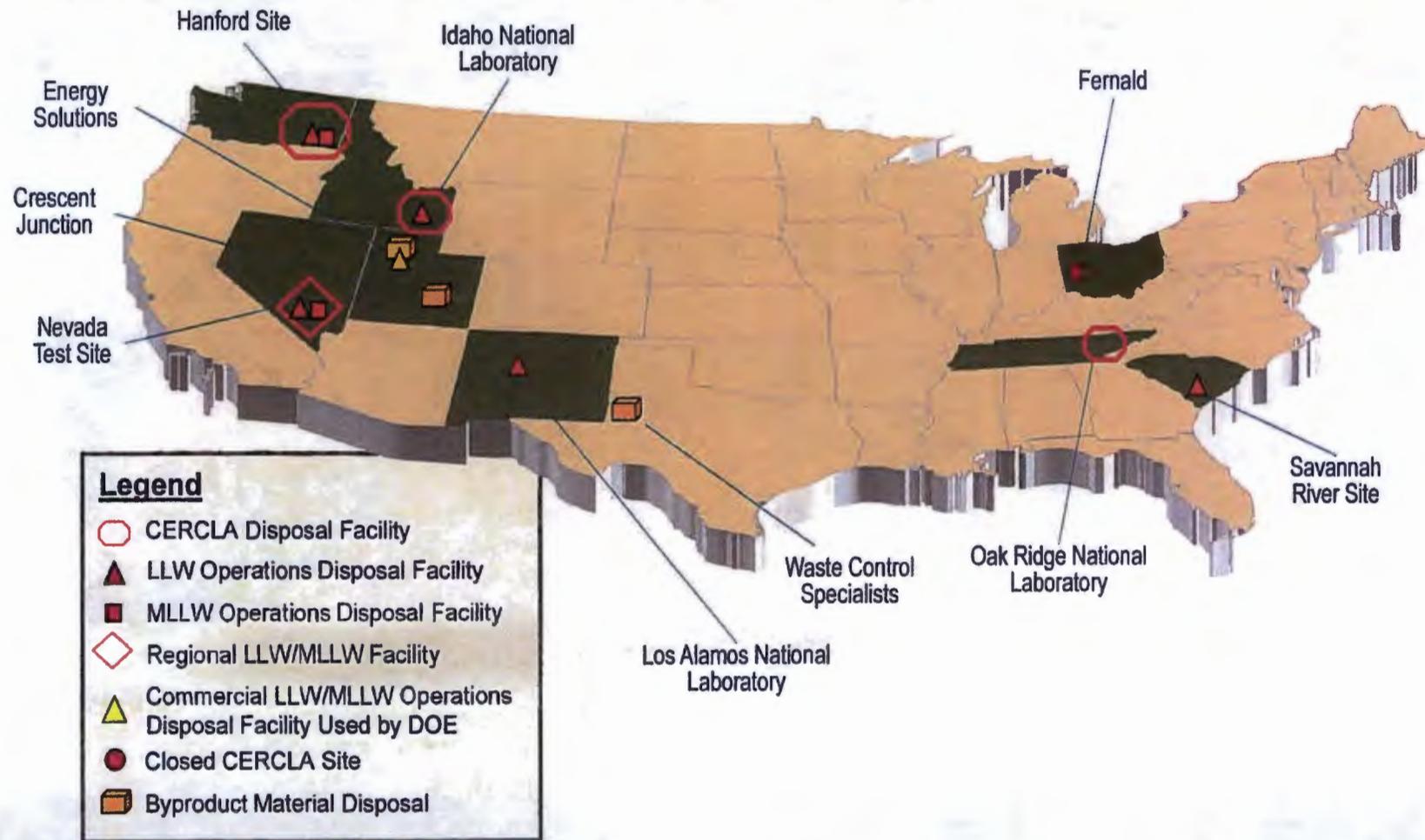
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As of October 17, 2011

... and dispositioning mixed and low-level wastes.



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Recent Waste-Related Accomplishments

- Expanded on-site CERCLA disposal capacities at Oak Ridge and Hanford
- Completed construction of the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit at Idaho
- Opened the new MLLW disposal facility at Nevada
- Identified revised strategies for disposition of U233 inventory
- Removed legacy TRU from another two small quantity sites
- Completed the 10,000th shipment, 500th RH-TRU shipment, and first TRUPACT-III shipment to WIPP
- Removed last waste from Idaho's infamous "Pit 9"
- Multiple major site cleanup contract awards
 - Oak Ridge
 - West Valley
 - Portsmouth D&D
 - AMWTP Operations
- Published Draft GTCC Disposal EIS and completed public comment period
- Published Final EIS for Mercury Storage
- Published draft Nevada Site-Wide EIS, which includes alternatives for disposal operations over next decade



Planned Waste-Related Accomplishments

- Begin treatment of Idaho's sodium bearing waste
- Begin full operations of the DUF6 Conversion facilities
- Publication of the first DOE 435.1 Waste Incidental to Reprocessing Determination for the West Valley Melter
- Document regulatory decisions related to disposition of Portsmouth and Paducah remediation waste
- Issue Final Hanford Tank Closure & Waste Management EIS and RODs
- Issue revised Saltstone disposal facility disposal authorization statement
- Issue §3116 Waste Determination for Savannah River F Tank Farm
- Conduct public meetings and solicit comment on DOE Order 435.1 Revision
- Resumption of environmental analyses to select disposal site for depleted uranium hexafluoride conversion product
- Complete DOE LFRG review of proposed replacement RH-LLW disposal facility at Idaho
- Develop preferred alternative and publish final GTCC LLW Disposal EIS



Considerations During These Dynamic Circumstances

- National fiscal challenges require us to improve on current project plans, strengthen execution, and reduce project costs
- Transparency is especially important, given numerous changes in policy and regulatory frameworks that affecting disposal of radioactive wastes
- More than ever, it is critical we maintain strong partnerships with our stakeholders – including the public, our regulators, other Federal agencies, and elected officials
- DOE will continue to partner with Industry – to optimize cleanup at our sites and to dispose of DOE wastes as safely and cost effectively as possible
- The real challenges remain, requiring us to improve our technologies, modeling capabilities, policies and strategies to address the remaining waste challenges
- We will continue to be called on to share our waste management experience and expertise with the world, to help address existing and emerging issues

