

INTERIM STORAGE OF CANDU SPENT FUEL AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE

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Abstract

Pickering Waste Management Facility (PWMF) is operational since November 1995 and safely storing spent fuel from Pickering 8 CANDU reactors. To date, equivalent to 22 reactor-years worth of spent fuel have been loaded, processed and stored in Dry Storage Containers (DSC). One DSC contains spent fuel from approximately one reactor-month of full power operation. The design life for the storage containers is 50 years. A Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has been formed to advise on the long-term Canadian strategy for management of spent fuel.

This paper will present the DSC processing steps, radiological hazard magnitude experienced during the DSC loading and processing for interim storage. A brief description of environmental and occupational safety performance will be presented.