

HOME PROJECTS BLOG MEMOS CURIO LEGACY VENTURES

CU-RIO

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a rare, unusual, or intriguing object





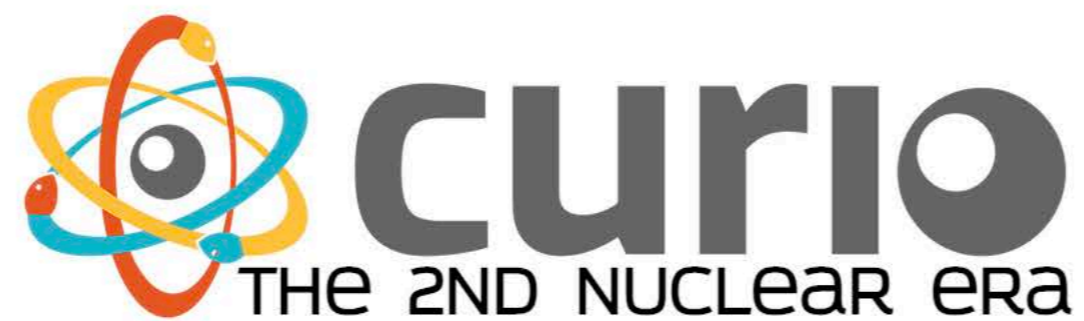
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NUCLEAR WASTE RECYCLING

Policy failure on Yucca Mountain repository has stranded >85,000 metric tons of used nuclear fuel across 75 sites in 35 states and saddled taxpayers with a ~\$1B annual liability. Although labeled waste, this material represents untapped energy equivalent to ~1% of global natural gas reserves and a necessary means to resuscitating nuclear power.

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RECYCLE WASTE

Used nuclear fuel (UNF), commonly referred to as nuclear waste, is a solid waste form that is produced in today's reactors. It consists of bundles of zircaloy pins containing stacked pellets of UO_2 . The pins are held together by a stainless steel frame. The solid fuel has a limited lifetime in the core due to a combination of fissile depletion and thermomechanical damage. Upon exiting the reactor, these bundles are placed in a cooling pond for several years before being transferred to dry casks like the ones shown here. Failure of government policy on Yucca Mountain has stranded more than 85,000 metric tons of UNF, and taxpayers have already paid out billions with a liability estimated at >\$50B if the state of affairs don't change.