



# **Preferred Alternative for the State-Licensed Disposal Area**

WVDP Quarterly Public Meeting

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# Preferred Alternative for the SDA

**Continue the in-place management of the SDA for up to 30 years including:**

- Regulatory compliance and oversight
- Active monitoring, inspections, maintenance and improvements
- Routine evaluations of performance and environmental conditions
- Technical support and participation of the academic and scientific communities to conduct studies of natural processes, exhumation feasibility and erosion modeling
- Public participation and input
- A comprehensive evaluation and decision on the future SDA management approach (like the current EIS) within 30 years

# Preferred Alternative for the SDA

## Rationale for the Preferred Alternative:

**NYSERDA has managed the SDA in-place successfully for 25 years.**

- Inspections and maintenance programs are effective.
- Environmental monitoring data show that the SDA is performing well.
- Water infiltration controls are working as designed.
- Local erosion repairs have improved site conditions.
- SDA is in compliance with all applicable regulations.

**Based on operating experience, NYSERDA believes that the SDA can be managed safely in-place for an additional 30 years.**

**NYSERDA believes that performance assessment modeling can be used to assess alternatives for the West Valley site for short time periods (decades).**

- Performance of the SDA will be analyzed in the EIS, and independently evaluated and analyzed by NYSERDA.

# Preferred Alternative for the SDA

## Rationale for the Preferred Alternative (continued):

**There is little experience and large uncertainty with the exhumation of radioactive waste on the scale needed to remove the entire SDA.**

- Waste exhumation, processing, packaging, transporting, and disposal will be analyzed in the EIS, and independently evaluated by NYSERDA.

**Wastes would be generated from exhumation with no available disposal path.**

- These “orphan” wastes would need to be stored on-site indefinitely.

**The cost for exhuming, processing, packaging, transporting and disposing of SDA waste and soil is uncertain, but likely to be high.**

- DEIS estimate was ~\$4 billion. Exhumation cost will be independently evaluated by NYSERDA.

**Managing the SDA in-place for up to 30 years does not preclude a future decision to exhume waste nor does it make future exhumation more difficult.**

- The preferred alternative does not include injecting grout into the trenches.

# Preferred Alternative for the SDA

## Specific Elements of the Preferred Alternative:

- Comply with radiation, chemical, and workplace safety regulations to protect health and safety, and the environment
- Conduct multimedia environmental monitoring
- Conduct inspections and perform maintenance of infiltration controls, drainage channels, slopes, etc.
- Complete a hazardous constituent study and implement remediation actions, if necessary
- Develop and implement an enhanced erosion monitoring and erosion control program
- Evaluate exhumation technologies and the feasibility of implementation

# Preferred Alternative for the SDA

## Specific Elements of the Preferred Alternative (continued):

- Conduct evaluations of erosion modeling
- Monitor and evaluate disposal paths for SDA wastes
- Engage the academic and scientific communities to study natural systems and processes that may impact SDA management
- Engage local residents, elected officials, and environmental and citizen groups to provide input, suggestions, oversight, visit the SDA, etc.
- Conduct ongoing assessments of the SDA including:
  - Facility and environmental conditions on an annual basis
  - Technical evaluations in support of regulatory license renewal (every three years), and regulatory permit renewal (every five years)
  - Comprehensive evaluation (like the current EIS) and decision on the future SDA management approach within 30 years.

# Preferred Alternative for the SDA

## SDA Decision (2009)

Continue the in-place management of the SDA for up to 30 years:

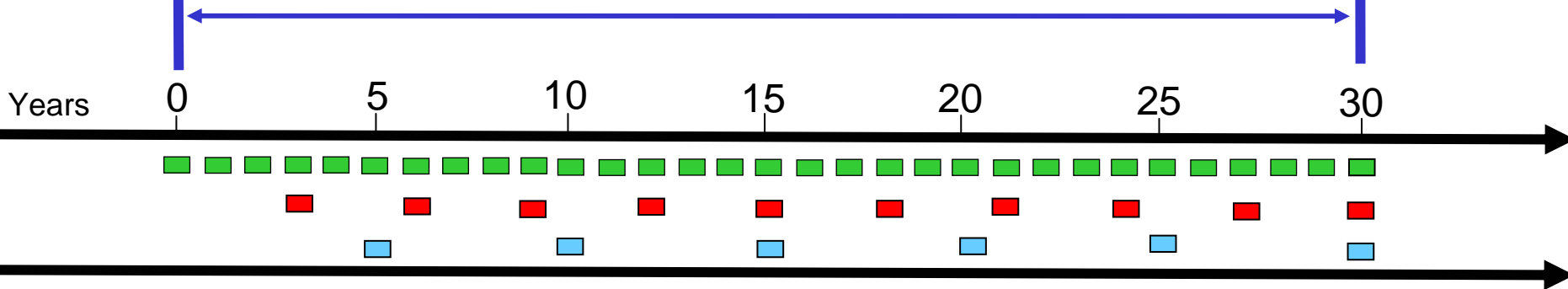
- environmental monitoring
- inspections and maintenance
- hazardous constituent study and remediation actions
- enhanced erosion monitoring and controls

### Ongoing Assessments:

- exhumation technologies and feasibility
- natural systems and processes
- disposal pathway availability
- erosion modeling developments

## SDA Decision (2039)

Comprehensive evaluation and decision on the future SDA management approach within 30 years.



### REGULATORY OVERSIGHT AND COMPLIANCE

- 1-year reviews, inspections and reporting
- 3-year Radioactive Material License renewal
- 5-year Radiation Control Permit renewal