



A transport canister containing repatriated waste is secured on a vehicle for shipment to Australia's Lucas Heights facility for temporary storage. Photo: ANSTO

and research centers. The Australian government has initiated a community consultation process to identify suitable sites for the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility. On November 13, 2015, the government shortlisted six sites for

further evaluation and public consultation. The six sites are at locations near Sally's Flat in New South Wales; Hale in the Northern Territory; Cortlinye, Pinkawillinie, and Barndioota in South Australia; and Oman Ama in Queensland.

According to the government, each nominated site was subject to an objective and evidence-based assessment by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, with the assistance of an independent advisory panel and Geoscience Australia. The department will consult until March 12 with local stakeholders that have an interest in the sites and a final site is expected to be identified before the end of the year.

NRC

An audit by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of the Inspector General has found that there are varying definitions of the term "long-term storage" relative to low-level radioactive waste. Without a formal definition of the term "long-term storage," NRC staff and external stakeholders are left to interpret its meaning, which could lead to inconsistency in inspections, according to the OIG.



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