Session Summary

• Session 2 of the Dialogue Forum focused on issues associated with the transfer of responsibility for spent fuel.

• The Chair introduced the Session by outlining the potential need for a multinational repository and posed the question of whether and under what conditions a generating country could transfer full responsibility to a country accepting the spent fuel for disposal.

• The presentations:
  • indicated that there are differing views on the question of whether responsibility can fully transfer, and noted that there will be opportunities to further discuss the issue in other forums,
  • offered important insights on the need for a harmonized framework in which trust must be a key component of any arrangement,
Session Summary (continued)

• Highlighted some of the practical and commercial issues associated with multinational approaches.

• Provided information about certain countries’ national regulatory and legislative approaches to spent fuel transfers.

• Discussions following each presentation and the panel discussion demonstrated the high level of interest in the topic.
Observations

• Small fleet and emerging countries are watching very closely the interplay between the policies of the established countries relative to the back end.

• Those policies have key differences and those differences are sending a message that in some cases does not contribute to progress. One of the more important differences that emerged out over the past 3 days concerned views of the role of multinational repositories.

• We were able to have direct presentations on the topic of transfer of responsibility that clarified areas where there were differences. This type of dialogue is important in promoting multilateral cooperation on the back end.

• Progress in addressing the issues associated with the back end will depend on opportunities that promote discussion, such as this Dialogue Forum.
Conclusions

• Over time there appears to be a growing need for a multinational repository.

• Addressing issues now that are associated with transfer of responsibility is important so that it does not become an impediment in the future to progress on multinational repositories.

• Multinational repository development will depend on progress made on national repositories. However, this does not mean that progress on addressing issues involved with multinational repositories should proceed sequentially.

• There is important work that can and should proceed now to address the many policy, technical, legal, and economic issues.
Conclusions (continued)

• Many forums exist that can and should play a prominent role in some of the key questions (e.g., the Joint Convention is planning to hold a topical meeting on multilateral coordination on the back end and will be addressing and clarifying legal and regulatory issues).

• INPRO could make valuable contributions in addressing some of the technical, policy, and economic issues.

• Such efforts could be enhanced by the involvement of small fleet and emerging countries whose contribution to the discussions and further understanding of the differences could be important.