

# CONSENT-BASED SITING CONSORTIA

Consent-based siting is an approach that seeks communities' willing and informed consent to accept new development or host a project in their area. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is using a consent-based siting process to identify one or more federal consolidated interim storage facilities for the nation's spent nuclear fuel, a byproduct of nuclear power generation. Spent nuclear fuel is currently stored at more than 70 sites across the country in communities that did not agree to host the material long term. Reducing the number of locations where spent nuclear fuel is stored can provide several benefits, such as easing the burden on U.S. taxpayers, promoting new jobs, and creating economic opportunities.

## WHAT ARE CONSENT-BASED SITING CONSORTIA?

DOE will fund up to 16 awardees that will serve as information, engagement, and resource hubs, referred to as consent-based siting consortia. The consortia will foster community discussion and capture feedback on interim storage of spent nuclear fuel. Potential consortia members include universities, non-governmental organizations, Tribal entities, State organizations, community colleges, regional planning organizations, individual communities, and more.

## WHAT WILL THE CONSORTIA DO?

The consent-based siting consortia will promote fair and inclusive participation through wider-reaching community engagement and information-sharing. More specifically, the consortia will:

- Organize, lead, and maintain meaningful and inclusive discussions about consent-based siting, the management of commercial spent nuclear fuel, and the role a federal consolidated interim storage facility could play in a community.

- Elicit and map public values, interests, and goals to promote effective collaboration and community-driven insights about using a consent-based process to site one or more federal consolidated interim storage facilities.
- Develop, implement, and report outcomes and strategies that enable effective community-driven feedback and strengthen relationships.

Consortium activities will begin in Summer 2023 and are expected to be carried out over 18 to 24 months. DOE will remain involved throughout the process to share information and resources.

## HOW WILL CONSORTIA BE FUNDED?

DOE issued a \$26 million funding opportunity announcement to identify partners to support engagement with communities interested in learning more about hosting a federal consolidated interim storage facility. Once awarded, the consortia can provide direct grants to interested communities and smaller organizations to develop additional educational opportunities and remove barriers to participation.

DOE is committed to a consent-based siting approach that enables broad participation and centers equity and environmental justice. [Learn more by visiting \[energy.gov/consentbasedsiting\]\(https://www.energy.gov/consentbasedsiting\).](https://www.energy.gov/consentbasedsiting)

