

D33. TARGETING THE "WORST OF THE WORST" SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

A broken outer spent fuel element trails sludge particles as it's moved from its storage barrel within Hanford's K East Basin to a shipping canister for examination and analysis. Much of the fuel in the twin 1.2 million-gallon water-filled basins has corroded and deteriorated and presents a threat to the nearby Columbia River.

These "worst of the worst" spent fuel elements were targeted in the latest sampling and characterization campaign. The most deteriorated fuel only represents 4 percent of the 2,300 tons in the basin. Visual inspection shows some of it is more corroded and deteriorated than was previously thought.

For more, "Targeting the 'Worst of the Worst' Spent Nuclear Fuel," pg.12, DOE This Month, July 1996.