Disposition of Surplus HEU through Downblending and Purification for Placement in the Nuclear Fuel Cycle

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Disclaimer - The opinions expressed by the author of this paper are his own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc.





Sole supplier of HEU fuel material to U.S. Navy

the smart alterna

- A world leader in HEU-to-LEU conversion
- Source for dispositioning U materials
- Helping to spark the nuclear renaissance

HEU Recovery Flowsheet



Downblending Economics

- Downblended U as a commercial reactor fuel saves hundreds of millions of \$ when compared to conventional means.
 - SRNS made 252 MTU of LEU from BLEU Project HEU
 - NFS has made > 225 MTU of LEU from BLEU Project HEU
 - NFS has made > 30 MTU of LEU from RFS Program HEU

"Megatons to Megawatts"



Blended Low Enriched Uranium (BLEU) Project – 23 MT HEU



Reliable Fuel Supply (RFS) Program – 17 MT HEU



Typical RFS HEU Metal Feed



HEU Slug Castings



HEU Broken Metal



CD-Line

The NFS CD-Line will come of line in early 2009. The skid-mounted process line equipment has been fabricated and tested and most of the equipment is on site awaiting installation, testing and operational readiness reviews.



The CD-Line is a logical extension of NFS' focus of providing turn key storage, processing and dispositioning of "Stranded" Materials, including downblending of proper materials for reuse.



CD-Line HEUF₆ Flowsheet



CD-Line

- The CD-Line is an extension of the NFS downblending process which addresses small quantities of HEU stranded materials with various physical, chemical and radiological attributes.
- In early 2009, operations will start with dispositioning of a variety of U-bearing scrap materials as well as HEUF₆.



Non- UF₆ Stranded Materials



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Summary

- Over 500 MT of 4.95% enriched LEU has been produced via downblending HEU from the BLEU Project and RFS Program
- This LEU product has produced savings of several hundred million \$ for commercial nuclear fuel users
- CD-Line adds new processing capabilities for the nuclear industry
- NFS can handle a variety of HEU feeds, including: metal, U/AI alloy, U oxides, U fluorides, plates, rods, etc.
- NFS stands ready to assist the industry with downblending and disposition of stranded materials.

