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**STRATEGIES FOR SAFE AND COST-EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF NUCLEAR
WASTES IN FINLAND**

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ABSTRACT

In 2001, the Finnish Parliament ratified the Decision-in-Principle on a final disposal facility of spent fuel to be constructed at the Olkiluoto site in the Western Finland. Since the early 1980s, this decision was grounded up by R&D and siting activities as well as by communications aiming at confidence building. Before the recent important licensing and siting step in the national waste management programme, interim storage facilities for spent fuel have been constructed at both nuclear power plant sites. Two shallow underground repositories were commissioned for low- and medium-level operating waste in the 1990s. Long-term programme and stepwise advancement have facilitated keeping the annual costs of nuclear waste management moderate. All major objectives were decided by the Government already in an early phase several decades ago, and these objectives have been met without significant delays. Nuclear power plant areas have been found out to be suitable even for location of waste storage and disposal facilities, which means benefits concerning infrastructure. Funds for R&D and implementation of waste management have been collected in the price of nuclear electricity since the start of nuclear power generation.