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# Oyster Creek Generating Station Safely Storing Used Fuel in Dry Cask Storage Fact Sheet

Oyster Creek Generating Station safely stores used nuclear fuel on site in a spent fuel pool and in dry cask storage.

## Dry Cask Storage

Used nuclear fuel decays over time and is less radioactive than the fuel in the reactor. Used fuel can be safely cooled by air circulating through their storage vaults. The radioactive material is contained in ceramic fuel pellets, which have a melting point of 5,000 degrees, and are inside metal rods, with a melting point of 3,000 degrees. The metal rods make up fuel assemblies. The used fuel assemblies are placed in thick stainless steel, leak-tight canisters that are welded shut.

The loaded storage canisters are transported to Oyster Creek's on-site concrete storage pad in a thick steel cask that is tightly sealed. The casks are placed into a reinforced concrete storage vault located at the storage pad.

The storage vault walls are approximately three feet thick and are designed to withstand natural or man-made events. The dry cask storage facility at Oyster Creek is protected from sabotage and intrusion with measures that are equivalent to those for the plant itself.

An independent analysis post 9/11 demonstrates that the storage vaults can withstand the impact of a large commercial aircraft without it breaching the canister barrier.

The dry cask storage facility is designed to hold used fuel only from Oyster Creek. U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations and township guidelines prohibit any other generating station from storing used fuel at Oyster Creek.

Exelon Nuclear will store Oyster Creek's used fuel at a national used fuel storage facility once one is put into use.

The Department of Energy formed a blue ribbon commission in 2009 to evaluate alternatives to the proposed Yucca Mountain national storage facility. The blue ribbon commission will evaluate the best options for a national storage facility that will store used fuel from the nation's nuclear plants.