Westinghouse Electric Company, in collaboration with the National Nuclear Laboratory’s (NNL’s) Preston Laboratory, continues to lead the way in the treatment of uranium-bearing residues. Integration of unique facilities and expertise within Westinghouse’s production plants and NNL’s Laboratory on the Springfields site enables recovery of uranium from process material generated during UF₆, UO₂, fuel development and production activities.

Westinghouse has several large-scale processing facilities with a diverse range of capabilities to enable hundreds of different uranium-bearing residues to be processed at the Springfields site. Westinghouse works closely with NNL experts to develop innovative technologies for the treatment and processing of uranium-bearing residues. As a fuel manufacturer, Westinghouse has the essential ability to recycle uranium and return it to the fuel cycle.

In recent years, Westinghouse has characterised and processed around 50,000 residue drums comprising over 1,000 different residue types generated in over 60 years of nuclear fuel research and manufacture. Westinghouse has a dedicated residues team working with customers and regulators to assess material, conduct trials and develop processing options.

Providing Solutions for your Uranic Materials

With extensive experience in processing their own legacy residues and legacy residues in their care, Westinghouse understands issues regarding legacy uranic material and can offer practical solutions. The financial and regulatory impact of storing uranic residues can be significant. Whilst interim storage of residues may seem like a low cost option in the short term, it means ongoing costs for facilities, manpower and equipment without a permanent solution. Also, sending uranic materials to disposal facilities can be problematic and the development of regulations often means that finding solutions may become more difficult. Westinghouse is able to assess your specific situation with the ultimate goal of recycling the uranium contained in the residues for use in the fuel cycle.

Along with technical support from NNL, Westinghouse has developed bespoke processing systems with exceptional capabilities focussed purely on transforming uranium-bearing residual material into a useable product. Westinghouse is also able to convert uranic residues into a safe and stable form for storage and can provide size reduction where recovery into fuel is impractical.

Westinghouse will deliver on its promise of providing a tailor-made service for your company. You will be assigned a Project Manager who will establish your requirements and provide a cost-effective solution. The Project Manager will have technical experts on hand to ensure that your issues are dealt with successfully. Westinghouse is experienced with uranic residues, and can provide you with unique, effective solutions.
Westinghouse Facilities at Springfields

Westinghouse has several unique facilities at the Springfields site with skilled and experienced operators to process residues. Westinghouse can handle varying volumes of material – from a few kilograms to many tonnes – and can offer pre-processing services, such as sampling, material sorting, size reduction, de-canning and re-drumming as part of their customized service to you. The Springfields site also contains storage facilities to support treatment options.

Enriched Uranium Residue Recovery Plant (EURRP)

The EURRP is a safe geometry plant at Springfields which can process uranium-bearing liquids or powders up to 5% enrichment. Clean materials which can process uranium-bearing liquids or powders up to 5% enrichment. The EURRP is a safe geometry plant at Springfields which can process uranium-bearing liquids or powders up to 5% enrichment. Clean materials which can process uranium-bearing liquids or powders up to 5% enrichment. Clean materials which can process uranium-bearing liquids or powders up to 5% enrichment.

Natural and Depleted Uranium Recovery Plant

At Springfields, this recovery plant can process high volumes of natural and depleted uranium residues for immediate return to the fuel cycle or conversion to UO2 for storage. Several thousand drums per year can be processed depending on the residue forms. The plant is capable of processing uraniumic liquids, powders, metals, sludge, sludge or bulk feed material. The plant normally processes up to 1% enriched material, and enrichments up to 1.4% can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Obese Cylinder Wash (OCW)

The OCW is a stand-alone facility designed and built by Westinghouse to clean non-standard cylinders holding a ‘heal’ of U6F.

Natural Decontamination Facility

The Natural Decontamination Facility can sort and size-reduce the material with uranium enrichments up to 5%. The facility can wash cylinders up to a maximum size of 30B type and can take enriched material up to 5%. Clean materials which can process uranium-bearing liquids or powders up to 5% enrichment. Clean materials which can process uranium-bearing liquids or powders up to 5% enrichment.

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