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Invited Lecture: Plutonium Waste Management in the UK

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Plutonium has arisen from large scale reprocessing over many decades. When the programmes ends around 2020 there will be approx. 140te of separated plutonium in UK. Current policy is safe and secure long term storage in modern purpose built stores. This requires ongoing active management and institutional controls including significant security costs and is not a lifecycle solution. Disposition options are being considered in order to put the material “beyond reach”:

- Reuse as LWR MOX
- Reuse in Candu EC6 Reactors (CANMOX)
- Reuse in GEH Prism Fast Reactor
- Immobilisation –Hot Isostatic Pressing (HIP) along with other technologies including low spec MOX and downblending.

The current status of these options will be outlined along with work planned over the next few years further develop them in support of future UK Government policy decisions.

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