

## Legacy Waste

Legacy waste is a term used to describe waste that has arisen from historic activities and has been stored for a long time in a variety of facilities. The nature of the waste is similar to waste arising from fuel reprocessing operations and research activities.

These wastes can be broadly considered to be:

- fuel element components and debris – such as Magnox and aluminium cladding materials, pieces of fuel from post irradiation examination
- activated components from reactor operations – such as thermocouple wires, fuel support members and graphite struts and
- contaminated items from operational activities – such as filters, PPE, plastic bags of waste

The challenge presented by these wastes is not just related to the nature of the waste itself, but it is the retrieval of the waste from the historic facilities that presents



Image: Sellafield Ltd Legacy Pond



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a challenge, as the previously used waste routes may no longer be available. This issue stems from the fact that future retrieval of the waste was not considered when the waste was placed in the facility.

### Examples of these facilities include:

- wastes from fuel reprocessing activities stored in pond skips in the Pile Fuel Storage Pond and the First Generation Magnox Storage Pond at Sellafield
- waste from fuel reprocessing activities stored in 22 compartments in the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo
- waste from research activities stored in a deep rock shaft at Dounreay

The NDA has programmes in place to retrieve, treat and package these wastes for long-term storage awaiting disposal.