

## **Comments on the discussion paper by Natural Resources Canada on waste storage facilities**

By Moltex Energy

Moltex believes interim storage is a safe and sensible solution for radioactive waste. In fact, it has been advantageous in that it has given stakeholders time to evaluate the best possible course of action, which may not be permanent disposal. In the decades that Canada's radioactive waste has been in storage, innovations have taken place all over the world.

Moltex believes all of the high-level waste in interim storage should be evaluated against the waste hierarchy. Minimizing, reusing and recycling should be favoured before disposal. Waste disposal should only be considered once all other reasonable options have been exhausted.

Looking to the future of nuclear technology in Canada, it is important that waste storage facilities maintain open and flexible acceptance criteria. New reactors will generate new waste streams and there needs to be storage facilities that can accept these. New policies should recognize continuous innovation in the development of storage strategies and timelines.

Moltex believes the Government of Canada and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) should continue to review the programs and policies in place and verify that radioactive waste storage facilities are compliant with domestic and international policies, to ensure that human health and the environment are protected today and in the future.