

Accident Tolerant Fuel Industry Working Group

NRC Commission Briefing
January 24, 2023

Brad Adams, Southern Company

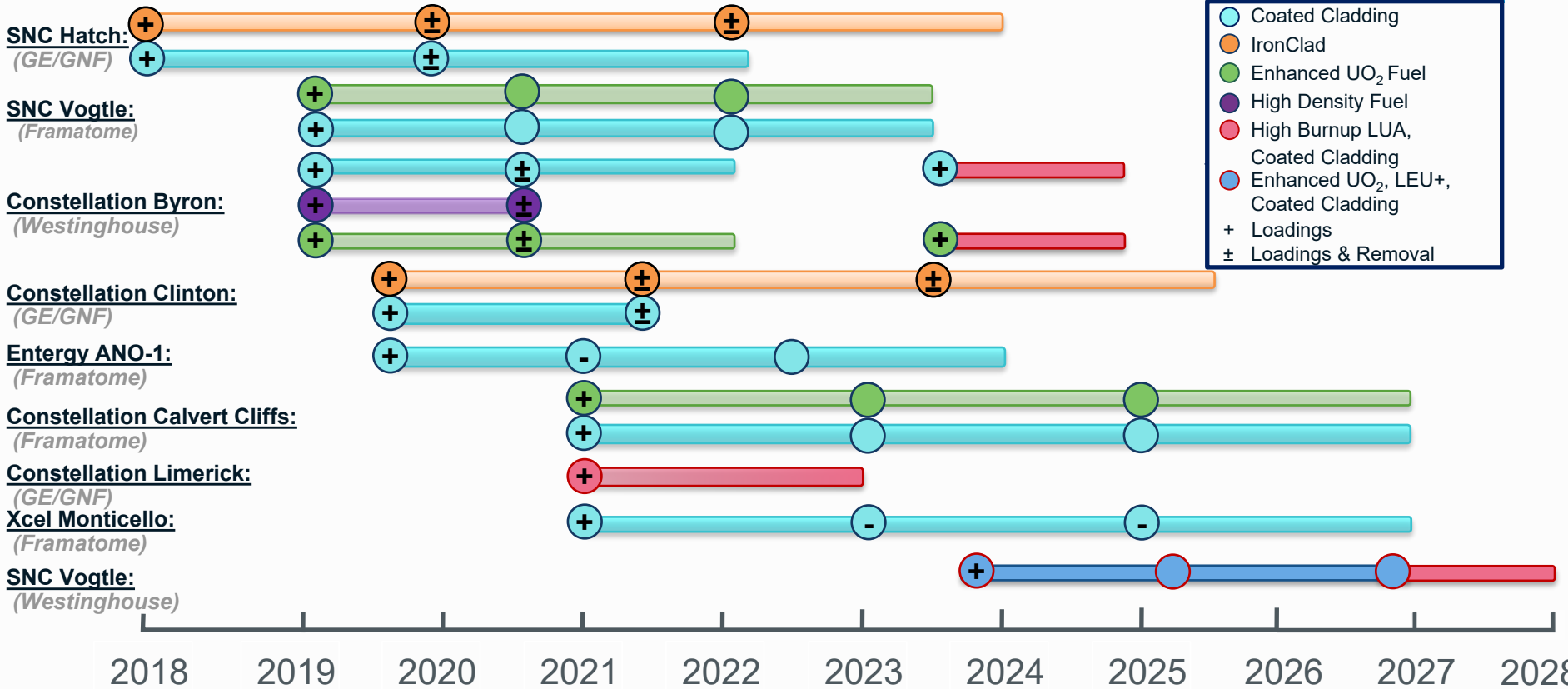


Industry Strategic Aspirations

- Develop and deploy fuel technologies that enhance accident tolerance and provide operational resiliency while enabling sustained economic performance through minimizing cost and improving efficiency
- Safely and economically enable 24-month cycle operation for the entire fleet of existing light water reactors:
 - Burnups up to ~75 GWd/MTU
- Achieve fuel licensing infrastructure to support burnup and enrichment extensions (LEU+) beyond legacy limits in the mid-2020s
- Commercialization and economies of scale of these advanced fuel technologies through sustainable volumes to meet the domestic and global demand

Key U.S. ATF/LEU+/HBU Commercial Testing

- Coated Cladding
- IronClad
- Enhanced UO₂ Fuel
- High Density Fuel
- High Burnup LUA, Coated Cladding
- Enhanced UO₂, LEU+, Coated Cladding
- + Loadings
- ± Loadings & Removal



Regulatory Infrastructure



- Industry appreciates NRC's attention and focus on developing a more effective ATF/LEU+/HBU licensing pathway
- A more streamlined and improved regulatory infrastructure is essential to provide greater clarity, efficiency, predictability, and stability
- A holistic modernized, technology neutral, and performance-based regulation could accelerate fuel licensing and support industry's strategic aspirations for ATF/LEU+/HBU

ATF Deployment with Increased Enrichment and Burnup

**IMPROVED
PLANT
ECONOMICS**

**HIGHER FUEL
EFFICIENCY**



**ENHANCED
SAFETY &
PERFORMANCE**

**LESS
WASTE**