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NRC Commission Briefing – January 24, 2023



# Westinghouse EnCore® fuel program enables 24-month cycles and significant uprates for PWRs with advanced cladding and pellets

## **ACCIDENT TOLERANT FUEL PRODUCTS**



#### **Advanced Cladding**

Chromium-Coated Zirconium – increases safety and operational margin, and may enable high burnup

Silicon Carbide Cladding – safety and operational benefits



#### **Advanced Fuel**

ADOPT fuel pellets – higher density, can support higher burn

Advanced Pellet (UN) - benefits to fuel cycle costs, and may support high burnup improved fuel cycle economics, thermal properties, and lower operating temperatures

#### **Chromium-Coated Zr Cladding**



### **ATF Products**

#### **ADOPT Fuel Pellets**



#### SiGA® Silicon Carbide (SiC) Composite Cladding



### **Enables HB Fuel**

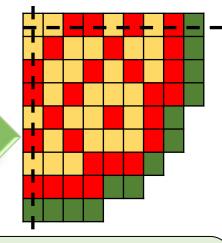
Uranium Nitride (UN) Pellets



#### U<sup>15</sup>N Fuel

Photo courtesy of Los Alamos National Lab

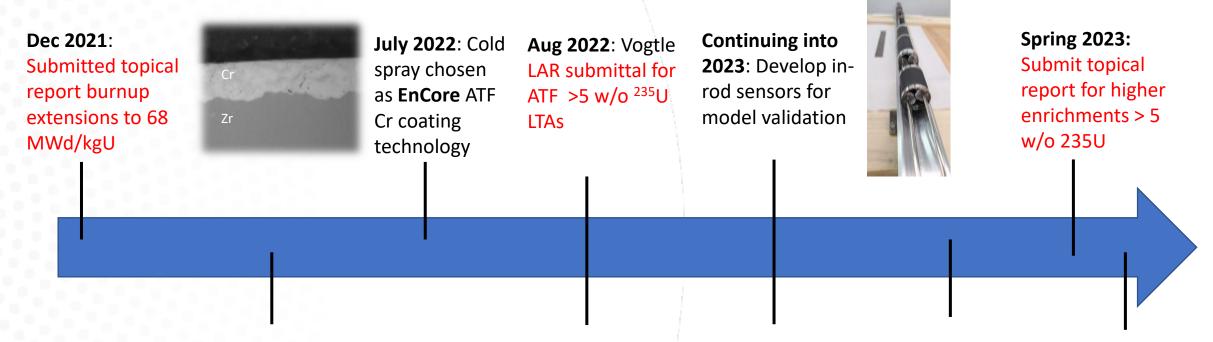
### **Higher Burnup Fuel**



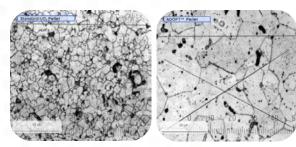
- Enables 24-month cycles
- Improves fuel cycle economics
- Power uprates
- Supported through higher enrichment and ATF technologies

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# Westinghouse rapidly progressed all facets of ATF program in 2022/2023

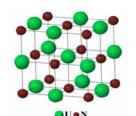


June 2022: ADOPT Pellet Final SERs issued, full region to be inserted in mid 2020s



Aug 2022: Byron 2 LAR submittal for reinsertion of ATF LTRs to exceed 75 MWd/kgU

Continuing into 2023: UN fuel property atomic scale model development



**Early 2023**: General Atomics work on **SiGA**<sup>(R)</sup> for ATR Fall 2023: Complete fabrication of Vogtle ATF LTAs and insert Byron 2 LTA for 3<sup>rd</sup> burn

ATF: Accident Tolerant Fuel
ATR: Advanced Test Reactor
LAR: License Amendment Request
LTR: Lead Test Rod
SER: Safety Evaluation Report

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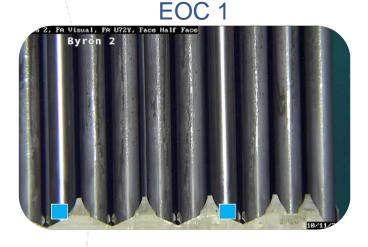
# Commercial reactor testing continues to confirm excellent performance of Westinghouse ATF products

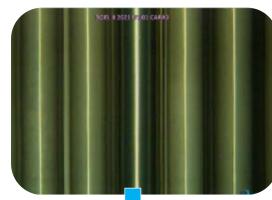
LTR/LTA Campaigns with Utility Partners provide critical data to support fuel qualification

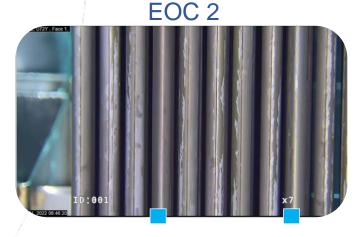
High High **Cr Coated ADOPT Density Enriched** Cladding **Pellets Pellets Pellets Byron Unit 2** (2019)**Doel Unit 4** (2020)**Vogtle Unit 2** (2023)**EDF LTRs** (2023)

Byron Unit 2 LTRs

Doel Unit 4 LTRs







ATF rods appear "pristine" with excellent coating adherence and little indication of crud.

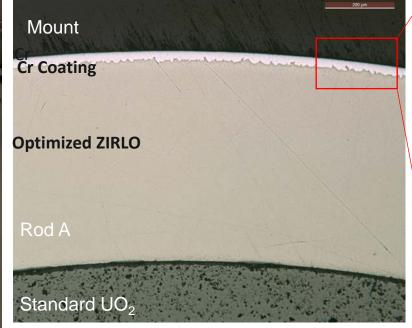
■ Cr Coated Rods

LTR: Lead Test Rod LTA: Lead Test Assembly EOC: End of Cycle

# Post irradiation examinations of Byron-2 fuel shipments confirm excellent **EnCore** fuel performance

### 3 ATF and 4 high burnup rods received mid-2021







Credit: ORNL Photographer Carlos Jones

Additional Byron 2 ATF and high burnup fuel shipments to INL and ORNL planned

Excellent cold sprayed Cr coating integrity with complete protection of substrate

# Codes and methods and fuel transportation updates support deployment of ATF and high energy fuel

- PARAGON2™ two-dimensional fuel energy transport code approved by NRC for modeling of <sup>235</sup>U enrichments up to 10%
- Traveller<sup>TM</sup> fuel shipping container package approved by NRC for <sup>235</sup>U enrichments exceeding 5%
- Fuel fragmentation, relocation, and dispersal (FFRD) is at the center of the Westinghouse
   HBHE fuel program, fully support Industry efforts
- Topical reports under development to be submitted for approval between 2023 and 2025
  - High enrichment topical to exceed the current 5% <sup>235</sup>U enrichment limit
  - Chromium coated cladding topical report
  - PAD5™ supplement for burnups: up to ~75 MWd/kgU
  - FSLOCA™ supplement for burnups: up to ~75 MWd/kgU
  - High burnup topical for burnups: up to ~75 MWd/kgU

## Summary

- Good progress being made on all fronts for ADOPT pellets and Coated Cladding with respect to development, fabrication scale-up, and licensing
- Poolside and Hotcell Post Irradiation Exam (PIE) support excellent fuel performance of ATF features
- Expect to insert first ATF feature (ADOPT pellets) in full region mid 2020s
- Good progress being made to fabricate UN pellets for test reactor testing and working with General Atomics to develop and qualify the SiC composite cladding
- ATF features provide enhanced safety, improved fuel cycle economics, support uprates and enable higher burnup / 24-month cycles

Westinghouse very appreciative for all DOE, NRC, National Lab, Utility and NEI/EPRI Support

## The following material is based upon work supported by the United Stated Department of Energy under Award Number DE-NE0009033

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