

Topic Area 7 Q&A

Q: What is the distinction between this topic area and associated research and the recent awards for consent based siting that were announced in June (<https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-awards-26-million-support-consent-based-siting-spent-nuclear-fuel>).

Do you have any insights into the distinction between this award and the CINR or the goals that the team has for pre-applications for this topic?

A: The Topic Area 7 research proposals and the consent-based siting funding opportunity announcement awards both support the Office of Integrated Waste Management's mission but the two differ by their approach and scope. The two funding opportunity announcements (FOA) also differ by awardee responsibilities (e.g., CINR FOA requires attendance at an annual meeting, whereas the consent-based siting FOA requires attendance at quarterly meetings).

Regarding approach and scope, the recent awards for the consent-based siting funding opportunity announcement support the planning and capacity building stage of the process. Each awardee constitutes a consortium to provide resources to communities interested in learning more about consent-based siting. The primary goal of the consortia is to facilitate outreach and engagement. How each consortium meets those goals is unique. That is, the approach and scope are much broader - though the approach and scope may be informed by research, they are not empirically driven.

The Topic Area 7 for the Consolidated Innovative Nuclear Funding Opportunity Announcement seeks empirical research proposals for five specified topics of interests. These proposals will be empirically driven by a research question(s) addressing one or more of the topics of interest. The methodology and data collection will vary, but the anticipated results are intended to support the current and future stages in the consent-based siting process. A document detailing the three-stage process can be found at: <https://www.energy.gov/ne/us-department-energy-consent-based-siting-process-federal-consolidated-interim-storage-spent>.