

RIC 2002
Session W3
“Waste”

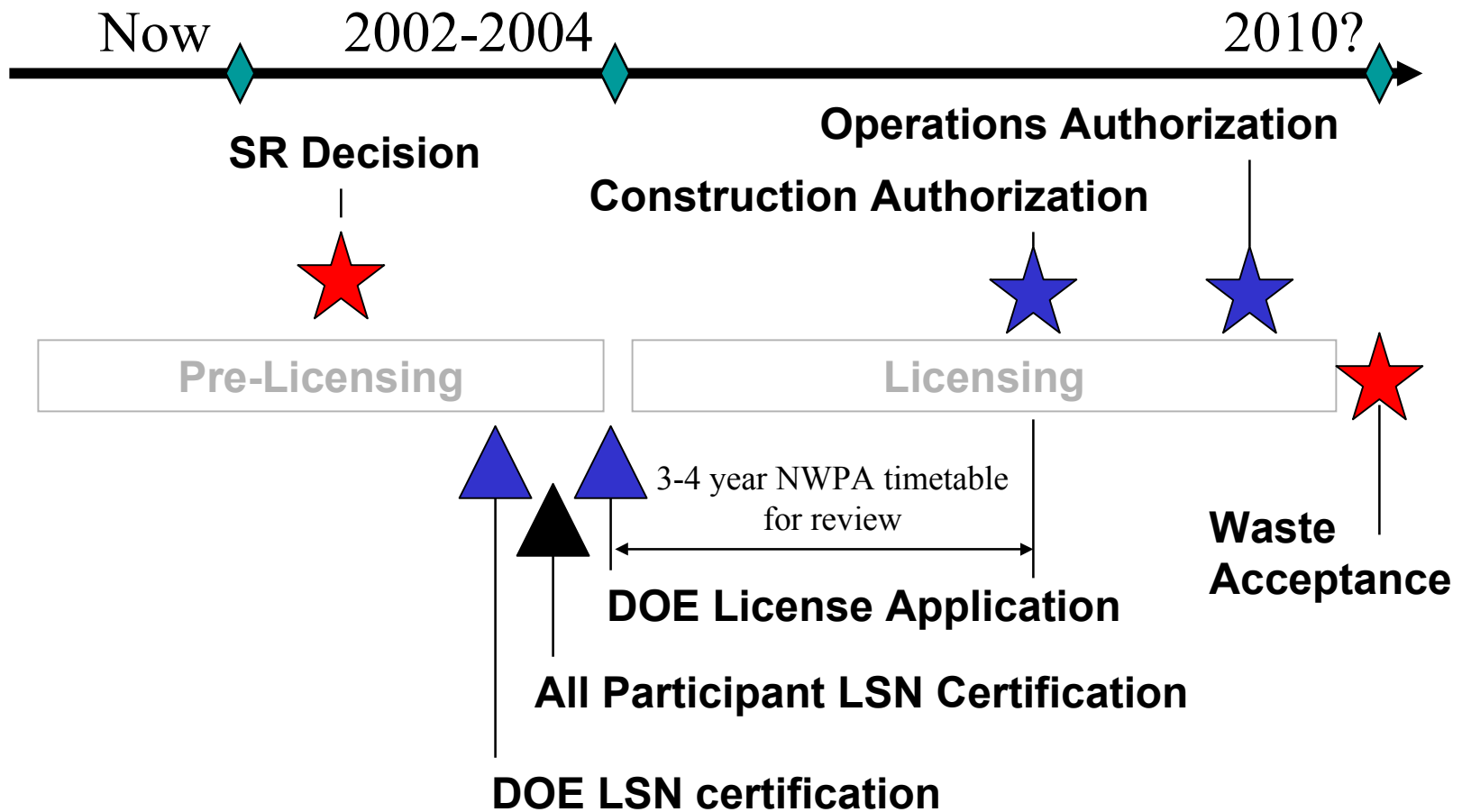
Step-Wise Repository Licensing

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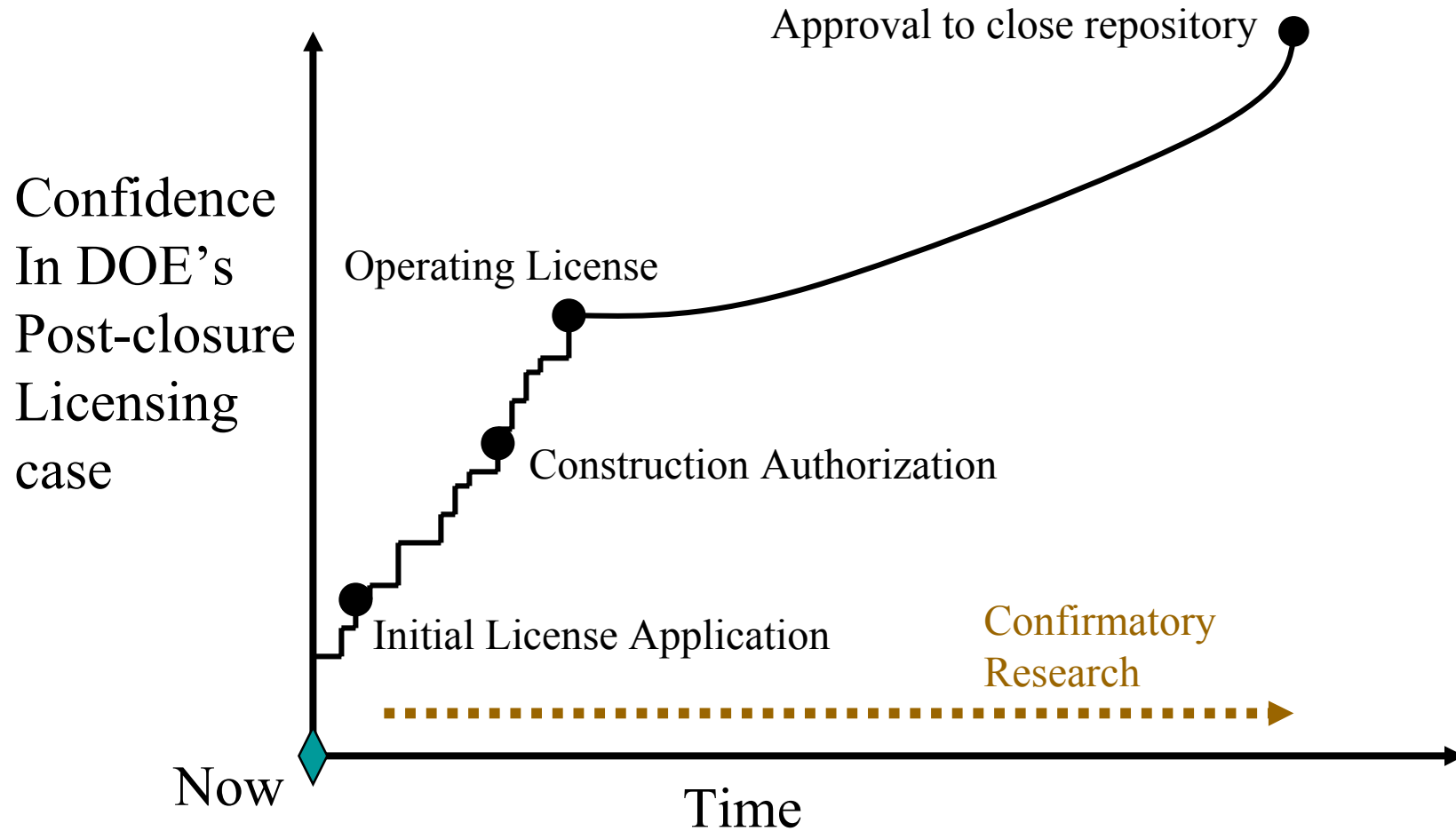


Yucca Licensing Schedule

Current NEI Expectation if Yucca Mountain Approved

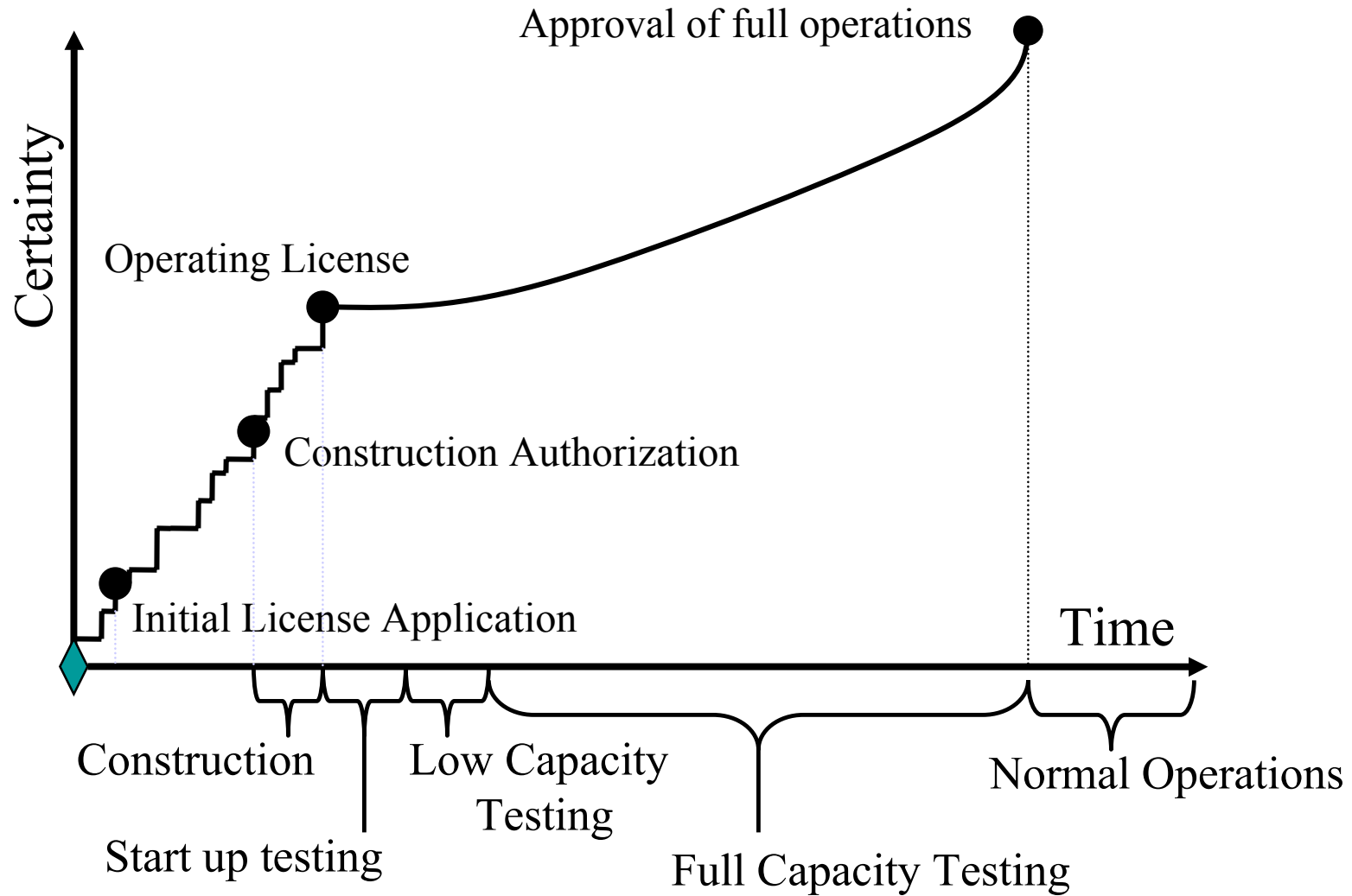


Step-wise licensing



Step-wise licensing

Reactor equivalents



Steps

Nuclear Waste Policy Act

- Study of candidate sites (1982 - 1986)
- Selection of site(s) to characterize (1987)
- Site characterization (1987 - 2001)
- Site approval (2002)
- Licensing (2002 – 2050/2300)
 - DOE application
 - Construction Authorization
 - Operations Authorization
 - Performance Confirmation
 - Amendment to close the repository

Step-wise

Scientific and Societal Decision-making

- Even when the (repository) design has been accepted, continued research should be carried out to better understand the expected performance and to develop alternatives and improvements. These steps should continue through the life of the program, including construction, waste emplacement, and final sealing.” – *NAS 1983*
- “For both scientific and societal reasons, national programs should proceed in a phased or stepwise manner.” – *NAS 2001*

Conclusion

- Safe and timely implementation of disposal is an important national energy, environment, and security objective
- A risk-informed, step-wise licensing process can facilitate safe and timely implementation
- Licensing a repository in time to meet or beat a 2010 date for waste acceptance will be difficult but is not impossible