

Nuclear Waste Disposal Program - Facts

Nuclear Waste Fund

- Since 1983, electric consumers from 41 states have paid more than \$34 billion, including interest, into the Nuclear Waste Fund (NWF).
- Ratepayers pay over \$770 million per year into the NWF; with interest credits, this amount exceeds \$1 billion annually.
- In its FY 2011 budget, the Administration terminated the disposal program and did not request any funds from the NWF, while it plans to continue collecting funds from the rate payers from 40 states. Annual appropriations to the disposal program represent approximately 20% to 13% of annual NWF receipts from FY 2000–2010.
- Only 4.7 % of accumulated annual receipt, including interest, has been appropriated from FY 2000-2010.
- \$1.8 billion in annual funding will be required to continue development of the disposal program in FY 2009-2023, according to DOE.
- Money contained in the NWF has historically been diverted to other programs, earmarks and used to offset the federal deficit.

Temporary Storage Facilities

- Spent nuclear fuel is stored in dry cask storage containers when spent fuel pools reach capacity or when reactor sites are shut down.
- Over 800 dry casks are currently being stored at 43 independent spent fuel storage sites licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- 64 sites are expected to have dry cask storage by 2017. Repository opening date is uncertain.
- Six additional sites with shut down reactors already have dry storage facilities.
- Utility customers pay the costs of dry cask storage despite having already contributed billions of dollars into the federally mandated NWF.
- Taxpayers may also bear the costs of DOE's liability for an estimated \$500 million per year in additional costs for each year the repository's opening is delayed beyond 2017.

The DOE is Experienced at Moving and Storing Spent Nuclear Fuel

- Has made approximately 68 shipments each year for more than 30 years without a single incident of release of radiation to the environment.
- Safely moves and stores spent nuclear fuel (SNF) from the U.S. Navy, research reactors, and from 41 foreign governments.
- Plans 6,795 shipments of high-level radioactive waste during the next 34 years, NOT including SNF from commercial nuclear power plants.
- DOE has safely and successfully received 8,364 transuranic waste shipments at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico effective March 2010, without a single incident of release of radiation to the environment.