



Managing Spent Nuclear Fuel Outside DOE

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Hypothetical Nuclear Waste Corporation (NUCORP) Establishment Act of 2026

This Act creates an independent nonprofit corporation (NUCORP) to replace the Department of Energy in managing the nation's nuclear waste program. It emphasizes collaborative siting, strong governance, financial independence, and partnerships for innovation

Purpose

- Address decades of failed federal efforts (e.g., Yucca Mountain).
- Ensure safe, reliable management of nuclear waste.
- Support nuclear power as clean baseload energy.

NuCorp Summary

Key Provisions

- Creates NUCORP as a federally chartered nonprofit, not a federal agency.
- Board includes federal, state, tribal, industry, and public interest representatives.
- Transfers all DOE waste responsibilities, contracts, and staff to NUCORP within 300 days.

Funding

- Access to Nuclear Waste Fund (NWF) interest revenue, later full corpus.
- May issue bonds (not U.S. obligations).
- Establishes Working Capital Fund with fees paid by contract holders and Congressional appropriations

NuCorp Summary, continued

Facilities & Siting

- Collaborative process with state, local, and tribal approval.
- Pilot and demonstration projects (e.g., borehole disposal).
- Partnerships for recycling and reprocessing encouraged.

Oversight

- Independent Oversight Review Committee, reporting to Board, monitors finances, contracts, and science programs.
- Annual mission plan and reports to Congress.
- Public transparency through published audits and board minutes.

NUCORP is designed to ensure reliable nuclear waste management while protecting public health, safety, and the environment

PROPOSED MISSION PLAN Due 300 days after establishment

- 300 Days after the establishment plan submitted for comment to
- (1) Congress;
- (2) the Secretary;
- (3) the Commission;
- (4) the States;
- (5) affected units of local government;
- (6) affected Indian Tribes; and
- (7) such other interested persons as the NUCORP considers appropriate.

Transportation

- Transport subject to compliance with all applicable requirements of the Department of Transportation and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- NUCORP shall provide advance notification to States and Indian Tribes through whose jurisdiction the NUCORP plans to transport the nuclear waste and provide information to the public about the transportation of nuclear waste.
- Five years before any transport NuCorp must provide financial and technical assistance to States and Indian Tribes on procedures required for safe, routine transportation, for dealing with emergency response, for radiological protection and emergency medical response, and for purchasing needed equipment

Education

- Establish a Public Education and Engagement Division
- Provide clear, science-based information on nuclear waste risks and management strategies to the public
- Outreach initiatives in potential host communities
- Collaborate with schools, universities, and media outlets
- develop a local workforce

GOVERNANCE OF NUCORP

The Secretary of Energy (or designee);

1 representative from a shutdown nuclear plant

2 representatives from industry members who are seeking licenses for nuclear reactors

3 representatives from industry members with operating nuclear reactors

1 representative each from:

A) A state currently hosting spent nuclear fuel or high-level waste;

B) A state with experience with prior efforts to site an interim storage facility

C) A state or states interested in hosting an interim storage facility

D) An Indian Tribe affected by nuclear waste policy;

E) A public interest organization;

F) An expert in nuclear materials management

G) A financial expert with experience in infrastructure financing