
Nuclear Waste Disposal

**Nuclear Waste Disposal
(\$K)**

FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	FY 2027 Request vs FY 2026 Enacted
12,040	12,040	12,040	-

Proposed Appropriation Language

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for nuclear waste disposal activities to carry out the purposes of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, Public Law 97–425, as amended, \$12,040,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund.

Mission

The mission of the Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight program is to execute activities in compliance with the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 and ensure the continued safety of the Yucca Mountain site through activities such as security, maintenance, and environmental requirements, and continued oversight for the Nuclear Waste Fund.

Overview

The Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight program supports the Department’s responsibilities for managing the Nuclear Waste Fund (NWF), administering the Standard Contract, offering legal services for nuclear waste disposal, maintaining the security of the Yucca Mountain site, and laying the groundwork within existing law to implement DOE’s responsibilities for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel (UNF)¹ and high-level radioactive waste (HLW).

**Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight
Funding (\$K)**

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request	FY 2027 Request vs FY 2026 Enacted	
				\$	%
Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight	12,040	12,040	12,040	-	-
Total, Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight	12,040	12,040	12,040	-	-

Highlights of the FY 2027 Budget Request

The Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight program’s FY 2027 Budget Request activities include:

- Implementation of an appropriate investment strategy and prudent management of the NWF investment portfolio;
- Administration of the Standard Contract for the disposal of UNF and HLW between contract holders and the government;
- Provision of legal services for activities related to management, storage, and disposition of UNF, HLW and related material;

¹ The term “used nuclear fuel” is intended to be synonymous with the term “spent nuclear fuel” as used and defined in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended, and the Standard Contract for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and/or High-Level Radioactive Waste (10 CFR Part 961).

- Associated costs for Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus activities that are consistent with section 302 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, including activities for the storage, transportation, treatment, and disposition of UNF, HLW, and material derived therefrom.
- Management of the physical security, site maintenance, and environmental requirements for the Yucca Mountain site;
- Execution of the annual agency financial report and audit; and
- Operation and maintenance costs for Yucca Mountain legacy licensing and data management system.

These funds are inclusive of program direction activities and management and technical costs necessary to carry out the program's mission.

Description

The United States has generated significant quantities of used nuclear fuel (UNF) and high-level waste (HLW) from nuclear technology applications, including electricity generation, national defense, and research and development, and this material requires safe storage and eventual disposal. Commercial power reactors have produced approximately 97,000 metric tons of initial heavy metal (MTHM) of UNF, with the potential to generate an additional 83,000 MTHM by 2070¹. Currently, most commercial UNF is stored at reactor sites, a quarter of which no longer have operating reactors. The United States also has an inventory of HLW from both commercial and defense activities stored in multiple states.

Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, the Department of Energy is responsible for the disposal of UNF and HLW. The Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight program ensures the proper management of the Nuclear Waste Fund investment portfolio and the administration of the Standard Contract for Disposal of UNF and HLW. It also supports legal services related to nuclear waste disposal activities and manages physical security at the Yucca Mountain site.

¹ Based on data from: (a) *Spent Nuclear Fuel and Reprocessing Waste Inventory*, Produced by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), PNNL-33938, Rev. 1.1, December 2024; and (b) GC-859 Nuclear Fuel Data Survey Summary tables produced by PNNL for DOE, available at <https://gc859.pnnl.gov>, released August 9, 2024.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Funding by Site Detail
TAS_5227 - Nuclear Waste Disposal Fund - FY 2027
(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2027 Request
Idaho Operations Office			
Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight	396	500	500
Total Idaho Operations Office	396	500	500
Los Alamos National Laboratory			
Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight	500	500	500
Total Los Alamos National Laboratory	500	500	500
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory			
Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight	320	375	375
Total Pacific Northwest National Laboratory	320	375	375
Sandia National Laboratories			
Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight	2,000	2,100	2,200
Total Sandia National Laboratories	2,000	2,100	2,200
Washington Headquarters			
Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight	8,824	8,565	8,465
Total Washington Headquarters	8,824	8,565	8,465
Total Funding by Site for TAS_5227 - Nuclear Waste Disposal Fund	12,040	12,040	12,040