

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

FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request	FY 2026 Request vs FY 2025 Enacted
12,040	12,040	12,040	0

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 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 including the fiduciary responsibility under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

Overview

The Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight program supports the Department’s responsibilities for managing the Nuclear Waste Fund (NWF), administering the Standard Contract, and maintaining the security of the Yucca Mountain site.

Highlights of the FY 2026 Budget Request

The Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight program’s FY 2026 Budget Request supports:

- Implementation of an appropriate investment strategy and prudent management of the NWF investment portfolio;
- Administration of the Standard Contract for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level radioactive waste (HLW) between contract holders and the government;
- Provision of legal services for activities related to nuclear waste disposal, including but not limited to interim storage;
- Management of the physical security requirements for the Yucca Mountain site under DOE Order 473.3A as well as site maintenance and fulfillment of environmental requirements
- Execution of the annual agency financial report and audit;
- 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.

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

	FY 2024 Enacted	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2026 Request	FY 2026 Request vs FY 2025 Enacted	
				\$	%
Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight	12,040	12,040	12,040	-	-%
Total, Nuclear Waste Fund Oversight	12,040	12,040	12,040	-	-%

Description

The United States has generated significant quantities of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) 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 95,000 metric tons of initial heavy metal (MTHM) of SNF, with the potential to generate an additional 85,000 MTHM by 2070¹. Currently, most commercial SNF 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 SNF 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 SNF 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.