

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Be Adopted as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Barnhart, Berger, Freeman, Garrett, Holvey, Wingard, Hunt, Olson
Nays:	-
Exc.:	-
Prepared By:	Jim Stembridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	6/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges United States Department of Energy (DOE) to remove Hanford Nuclear Reservation from list of candidate sites for permanent storage of radioactive waste.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Hanford Cleanup Board
- Nature of the materials stored at Hanford
- Potential impact of Hanford dangers on Oregon

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Changes factual references.

BACKGROUND: According to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), there are no facilities for permanent disposal of high-level radioactive waste. Since the only way radioactive wastes become harmless is through decay, which can take hundreds of thousands of years, the wastes must be stored in a way that provides adequate protection for very long times.

Spent fuel from nuclear power plants is currently being stored at nuclear power plants. Some spent fuel is also stored at facilities in West Valley, New York; Morris, Illinois; and Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. Existing high-level wastes from reprocessing are presently stored at West Valley, New York; Hanford, Washington; Idaho Falls, Idaho; and Savannah River, South Carolina. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPAA, 1983) defined the federal government's responsibility to provide permanent disposal in a deep geologic repository for spent fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

In February 2002, after many years of studying the suitability of the site, DOE recommended that the Yucca Mountain site be developed as a long-term geologic repository for high-level waste. DOE is preparing a license application to submit to the NRC for construction authorization for the Yucca Mountain repository.

Seven operating commercial facilities in the United States are licensed to dispose of low-level radioactive wastes. They are (1) West Valley, New York; (2) Maxey Flats, Kentucky; (3) Sheffield, Illinois; (4) Beatty, Nevada; (5) Hanford, Washington; (6) Clive, Utah; and (7) Barnwell, South Carolina. At the present time, only the latter three sites are receiving waste for disposal.

The Hanford Nuclear Reservation is in eastern Washington, approximately 40 miles north of Hermiston, Oregon.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.