



## Interim Storage and its role as part of the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act

### BACKGROUND:

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 tasked the Department of Energy with the responsibility to permanently dispose of spent nuclear fuel from commercial power plants across the country. In 1987, Congress designated Yucca Mountain as the first location to dispose of spent nuclear fuel and in 2008, the Department of Energy applied to construct the Yucca Mountain repository. Unfortunately, the Obama administration's Department of Energy stonewalled the project. Now spent nuclear fuel sits idle in 121 communities, across 39 states waiting to be moved to a permanent repository where it can safely be disposed of for a million years.

To aid in the disposal process, H.R. 3053 authorizes interim storage of spent nuclear fuel for the first time. Interim storage is exactly what it sounds like: Spent nuclear fuel would be placed into private, temporary storage facilities where it can be safely housed until Yucca Mountain is ready for operation.

### WHAT THIS BILL WILL DO:

- Direct the Department of Energy to initiate a program to consolidate and temporarily store commercial spent nuclear fuel during the development, construction, and initial operation of a repository.
- Encourages the Department of Energy to take ownership of spent nuclear fuel from facilities that have ceased commercial operation.
- Allows the Department of Energy to enter into contract with private storage facilities.
- Authorizes \$150 million in funding for the Department of Energy to partner with one non-federal entity to store spent nuclear fuel while the repository license review is completed.
- Protects taxpayers by reducing legal liabilities, as well as enable program development to prepare spent nuclear fuel for shipment to a permanent repository.

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