

Paying Something for Nothing

35 years ago, Congress enacted the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA), which formally established a comprehensive nuclear waste management strategy. The NWPA established a “fee-for-service” funding model in which ratepayers who benefitted from nuclear energy paid the federal government to finance a disposal program.



\$100 Billion/100 years – the cost of Yucca Mountain according to the most recent estimate, funded almost entirely through a “fee-for-service” financing mechanism paid by ratepayers



\$40 Billion – the amount that ratepayers have already paid in fees to the federal government for the construction and operation of a permanent nuclear waste repository



20 – years past the statutory deadline for the federal government to fulfill its **contractual obligation** to dispose of nuclear waste

The Growing Cost of Inaction

Because the federal government has failed to fulfill its contractual obligation to dispose of the nation’s nuclear waste, numerous legal proceedings have made the federal government responsible for financial damages and prevented the continued collection of fees from ratepayers to construct a repository.

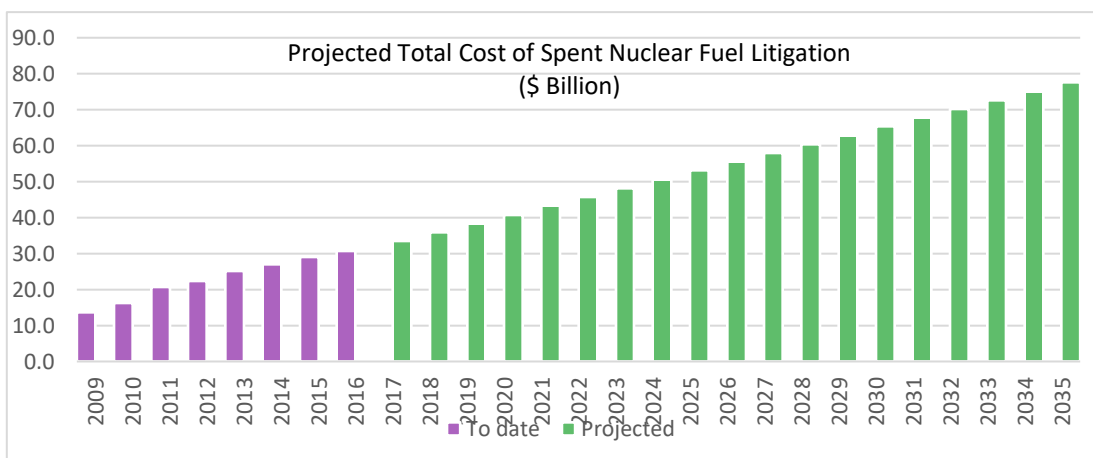


\$0 – DOE is no longer allowed to collect fees from ratepayers due to court rulings based upon the lack of a permanent nuclear waste repository program



\$34 Billion...and Growing – Amount of money taxpayers are currently liable for because of court-ordered claims due to the lack of a permanent nuclear waste repository. These payments from the federal government’s “Judgment Fund” represent **mandatory spending, not subject to annual appropriations or budget caps**, but contributes to our nation’s growing \$20 trillion debt

This money is **already being spent** and **this liability is projected to grow in perpetuity** if the federal government does not fulfill its contractual obligation to construct a permanent nuclear waste repository.



For more information visit: energycommerce.house.gov/nwpa/