

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1924

To designate a site for the interim storage of spent nuclear fuel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 1995

Mrs. VUCANOVICH (for herself and Mr. ENSIGN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To designate a site for the interim storage of spent nuclear
fuel.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Interim Waste Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

6 The Congress finds that—

7 (1) electric utilities are running out of space for
8 the storage of spent nuclear fuel at commercial reac-
9 tors;

10 (2) pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act
11 of 1982 and the contracts executed thereunder, the

1 Secretary has a clear and unconditional obligation to
2 accept spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive
3 waste beginning not later than January 31, 1998,
4 which obligation is continued under this Act;

5 (3) a repository for the permanent storage of
6 spent nuclear fuel will not be licensed until the early
7 part of the next century at the very earliest;

8 (4) for reasons of both safety and economics,
9 we must consolidate the current spent nuclear fuel
10 storage sites at 1 or 2 interim sites;

11 (5) several criteria should be met for an interim
12 spent nuclear fuel storage facility: spent nuclear fuel
13 should already be at the site, there should be an
14 adequate land area, the Federal Government should
15 already own the land, there should be a transpor-
16 tation infrastructure already in place, there should
17 be a security infrastructure already in place, a
18 skilled workforce familiar with handling nuclear ma-
19 terials should be available, a nuclear safety/worker
20 protection infrastructure should be in place, and the
21 locations should be in general proximity to the Na-
22 tion's nuclear reactors, that is, one for the East and
23 one for the West;

1 (6) the new economic activity associated with
2 spent fuel management may address concurrent job
3 losses; and

4 (7) the Hanford Nuclear site and the Savannah
5 River Nuclear site meet all the criteria in paragraph
6 (5).

7 **SEC. 3. OBLIGATIONS OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY.**

8 The Secretary of Energy shall accept spent nuclear
9 fuel and high-level radioactive waste beginning not later
10 than January 31, 1998.

11 **SEC. 4. INTERIM STORAGE.**

12 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall design,
13 construct, and operate facilities for the interim storage of
14 spent nuclear fuel. The interim storage facilities shall be
15 licensed by the Commission and shall commence operation
16 by January 31, 1998.

17 (b) LOCATION.—The interim storage facilities shall
18 be located at the Savannah River Nuclear site and the
19 Hanford Nuclear site.

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