

WHAT ABOUT

WASTE?



80 YEARS  
of Nuclear

DC DAYS  
June 8-11



Alliance for  
Nuclear  
Accountability

2025

[ananuclear.org](http://ananuclear.org)



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**WA****\$TE?**

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## WHAT ABOUT WASTE? 80 Years of Nuclear

No matter your view, **nuclear is wasteful**. It is **extraordinarily expensive** in all of its forms and creates radioactive waste which poses a **forever threat to human and environmental health**. As we mark the 80 year anniversary of the nuclear age, the United States needs:

- a **nuclear weapons policy** that is neither provocative nor aggressive,
- a **nuclear waste policy** that prioritizes health and safety for the lifetime of risk, from workers on the front lines to future generations who inherit the nuclear legacy we create,
- a **nuclear power phase-out** to prevent never-ending radioactive waste generation.



**Alliance for Nuclear Accountability** groups focus on:

- Stopping new nuclear weapons design, engineering, production, and testing.
- Addressing challenges from cleanup and waste management, processing, storage, and disposal.
- Stopping the creation of new nuclear waste.

ANA's collaboration of grassroots groups has worked for 38 years at local, regional, state, and national levels to address health and safety issues at Department of Energy (DOE) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) sites for workers, the public, and the environment.

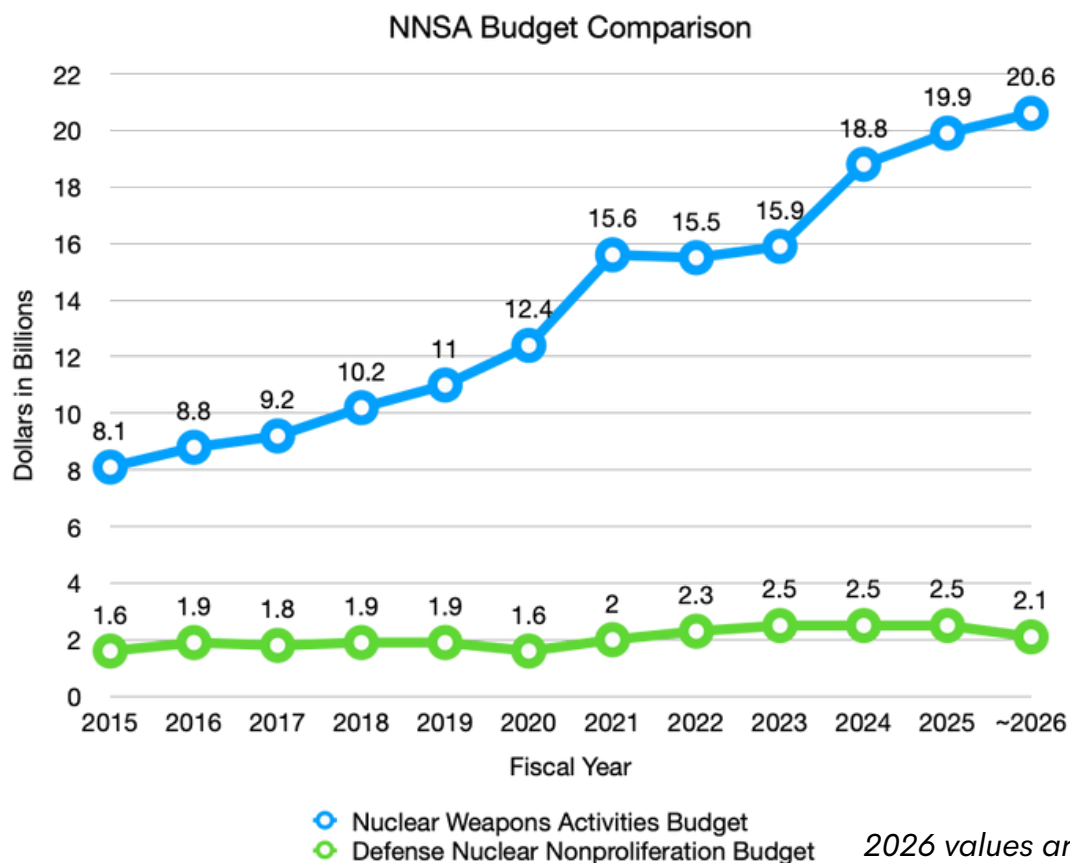
# Nuclear Weapons Background

WHAT ABOUT  
**WA\$TE?**

Escalating the funding for multiple novel warheads carries financial and technical risks, while intensifying nuclear dangers and adding fuel to the fire of a spiraling global arms race. Talks of a resumption of nuclear testing add more fuel to this fire, along with grave environmental and public health risks.

Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine turns the old adage that nuclear weapons prevent war on its head; instead they undergird Putin's aggression. The U.S. and Russia hold 90% of the world's nuclear weapons. Bilateral and multilateral diplomacy must be soberly considered and creatively centered in our actions. As Reagan and Gorbachev observed in 1985, a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.

The entry into force in 2021 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons challenges the nuclear weapons states and their allies to re-examine the role of nuclear weapons in policy and practice. **The spiraling costs for U.S. nuclear weapons "modernization" (nearly \$2 trillion and growing) are a call to action to reassess spending priorities and realign funding.**





## No to Nuclear Testing

- Reject calls to resume full-scale explosive nuclear testing.

## Stop New Warheads

- The recent Budget Reconciliation Bill proposes \$2.4 billion for the nuclear Sea Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM-N) and its warhead over the next 4 years. Congress should not authorize or appropriate any funding for this system.
- The warhead for the Sentinel Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) should be terminated or re-scoped to allow full use of available W87-0s. The W87-1 funding should be reduced or eliminated. Production of its new plutonium pits should halt.
- The W93 warhead should be terminated and the 1.2 megaton B83 bomb, currently slated for retirement at an unnamed time, should be fully retired in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026.

## Stop New Bomb Plants

- Cut funding for National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) "Plutonium Modernization."
- Congress should mandate a new pit aging study and NNSA should complete the new court-ordered Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement before plutonium pit production.
- Demand a full accounting of cost overruns at the Uranium Processing Facility.
- Block DOE's proposed \$300 million budget ceiling for "General Plant Projects."

## Support Rule of Law and Nuclear Disarmament

- Pass H.Res.317 to lead the world back from the brink of nuclear war.
- Pass H.R.1888 to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

## Protect the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB)

- Maintain DNFSB quorum. This requires that Republicans on the Senate Armed Services Committee recommend a Presidential nomination of at least one new Board Member that the Senate approves. Better still would be three Senate-approved nominees (two Republicans and one Democrat), bringing the board to full membership.
- Ensure DNFSB receives full funding authorization in the National Defense Authorization Act, and that the funding is fully appropriated for FY 2026.

# WHAT ABOUT WASTE?

# 2025 Cleanup & Waste Management Background

During the Cold War, nuclear weapons research, production, and testing left a legacy of radioactive and chemical waste, environmental contamination, and hazardous facilities and materials at more than 100 sites in 30 states and one U.S. territory. This contamination presents an ever-increasing risk to the environment, surrounding communities, and Tribes.

Despite spending \$200 billion on cleanup over the past 35 years, the federal government estimates that the remaining cost to complete cleanup is \$700 billion. Each new year of inadequate funding increases the total cost to protect human and environmental health from this deadly waste.

Irradiated nuclear fuel and defense high-level waste are among the most radioactive substances on Earth. Safe handling and eventual disposal of this deadly waste must include broad-based, full, free, and informed consent. Millions of tons of solid radioactive waste and billions of gallons of liquid waste are stored at nuclear reactor and weapons production sites across the United States. There are no complete plans for where this waste will be disposed of, but nuclear power plants and weapons production sites continue to generate more waste. This needs to stop in order to ensure a safer future.



TIME CAPSULE

© 1976, 2012. Engelhardt in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Reproduced with permission.



Photo courtesy of No Nuclear Waste Aqui

This nuclear legacy threatens surface waters, aquifers, and wildlife. The communities that have borne the brunt of this legacy of contamination now also bear the greatest risk. The short-sighted focus on faster, cheaper decisions will only increase the burden future generations must bear. We all deserve a safer, cleaner future.

# 2025 Cleanup & Waste Management Recommendations

WHAT ABOUT  
**WA**  **\$TE?**

## **Full Cleanup, Full Funding, Protect Everyone**

- Reauthorize & Expand the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA).
- Fully fund cleanup. Dramatically increase well-managed spending on cleanup now to save billions of dollars in the future. Stop paying to babysit waste, increase funding for comprehensive cleanup.
- Protect communities from radioactive & toxic contamination now & in the future. Transparency is critical.

## **Don't Fund Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS) for Commercial Irradiated Nuclear Fuel**

- No funding for federal consolidated "interim" storage.
- No funding for the formerly proposed Yucca Mountain site.
- Require Hardened Onsite Storage (HOSS) to minimize unnecessary transportation of waste. Keep the waste as close to the generating site as possible until there is a scientifically suitable repository.

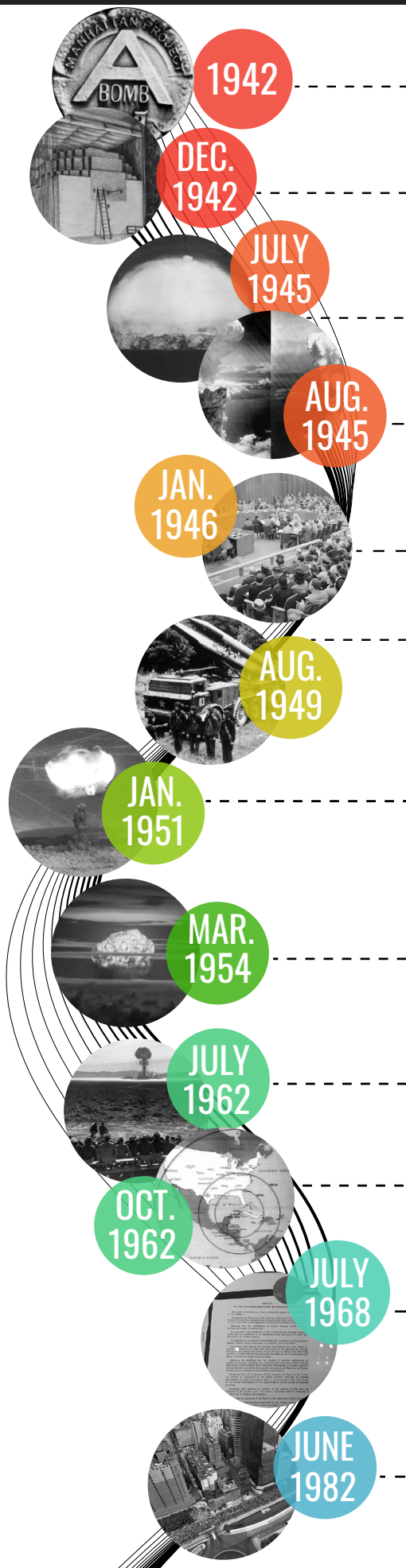
## **Stop Making Long-Lasting, Intensely Radioactive Waste: No Funding for New Reactors, No Reprocessing, No Subsidies**

- No funding or subsidies for new nuclear reactors or restart of closed reactors, which are dangerous and embrittled.
- No funding for reprocessing.

# Nuclear Overview of the Past 80 Years



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**1942: Manhattan Project established** in U.S. to develop atomic weapons

**December 2, 1942: Chicago Pile-1 reactor generates the first highly radioactive waste** as part of the Manhattan Project, under the direction of Enrico Fermi (and we still don't know what to do with the first cupful)

**July 16, 1945: U.S. conducts first ever nuclear detonation in New Mexico, "Trinity Test"**

**August 6 and 9, 1945: U.S. drops atomic bombs** on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

**January 24, 1946: UN General Assembly calls for complete elimination of nuclear weapons**

**August 29, 1949: Soviet Union tests its first nuclear bomb**

**January 27, 1951: Nevada Test Site atomic bomb detonations begin** on Western Shoshone land in violation of 1863 "peace and friendship" Treaty of Ruby Valley

**March 1, 1954: "Castle Bravo," a 15 megaton hydrogen bomb,** detonated in the Marshall Islands — one of 67 known atmospheric nuclear tests between 1946 and 1958 — resulting in an ongoing legacy of death, illness and contamination

**July 17, 1962: Last above-ground test-detonation** at Nevada Test Site (underground testing continued)

**October 16-29, 1962: Cuban Missile Crisis** brings U.S. and Soviet Union to **brink of nuclear war**

**July 1, 1968: Nonproliferation Treaty** opens for signatures with non-nuclear-weapon states agreeing never to acquire nuclear weapons, and nuclear-weapon states agreeing to disarm

**June 12, 1982: More than one million people rally in NYC** for disarmament, the largest anti-war demonstration in history



# Nuclear Overview of the Past 80 Years



Alliance for  
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1987

**1987: Alliance for Nuclear Accountability founded** under the name the Military Production Network

DEC.  
1987

**December 22, 1987: "Screw Nevada" bill** singles out Yucca Mountain on Western Shoshone land as only national site considered for both commercial and military high-level radioactive wastes

OCT.  
1990

**October 5, 1990: Radiation Exposure Compensation Act enacted**, limits coverage to specific individuals and diseases, focused on those exposed to radiation from nuclear testing or uranium mining.

SEPT.  
1992

**September 23, 1992: Last full-scale underground test-detonation** conducted at Nevada Test Site (sub-critical testing continued)

SEPT.  
1996

**September 24, 1996: U.S. signs Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty**, prohibiting all nuclear weapons tests, but the Senate rejects ratification in 1999 and the treaty has yet to enter into force

MAR.  
1999

**March 26, 1999: Waste Isolation Pilot Plant** opens in New Mexico for disposal of military transuranic wastes in a geologic repository

JAN.  
2021

**January 22, 2021: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons** enters into force without any nuclear-armed states

JUNE  
2024

**June 10, 2024: Congress lets RECA expire**, leaving downwind communities to fight for reauthorization

**2025:**

- **\$12 trillion spent by U.S. on nuclear weapons** from 1940-2025
- **\$110 billion spent by U.S. in FY 2025** on nuclear weapons programs: \$209,939 per minute
- **Radioactive & chemical contamination** threaten our water, wildlife, and way of life
- **Environmental & public health consequences** of radioactive contamination impact communities around the world
- **Frontline communities** teach the world about the **burden of nuclear waste** in bodies, land & home; and the power of community to foster strength and resilience in the fight for nuclear justice
- **Cleanup & management** of nuclear legacy is a multi-generational challenge with monitoring of radioactive waste required forever

**2025:  
TODAY,  
80 YEARS  
LATER**

Image credits:  
1. "Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. London, Moscow, Washington, 1st July 1968" Marc Baronnet, CC BY-SA 4.0  
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2. 12/Jun/1982. United Nations, New York. UN Photo/Yutaka Nagata. un.org/av/photo/ via Flickr  
3. Image of entrance to Yucca Mountain under construction. (Nov. 2007), Nuclear Regulatory Commission nrc.gov/ via Flickr  
4. TRUPACT-II TRU Nuclear Waste Shipping Containers, by Kelly Michals via Flickr



# 2025 Nuclear Weapons

## NO TO NUCLEAR TESTING

- **Reject calls to resume full-scale explosive nuclear testing.**

Since 1992, the United States has refrained from conducting explosive nuclear tests, maintaining a moratorium. In 1996 the U.S. signed (but never ratified) the **Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**. Trump administration officials have called to restart nuclear testing.



## KEEP THE DOOR CLOSED ON NUCLEAR TESTING

**A resumption of testing poses grave human and environmental health threats caused by radioactive material in the air and groundwater.** Resumption of testing could disrupt global security and may cause a new nuclear arms race, prompting other countries to test their nuclear weapons.



Downwinders advocating for the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act at the Trinity Test Site in New Mexico

Learn more at: [www.trinitydownwinders.com](http://www.trinitydownwinders.com)



March 1, 1954 "Castle Bravo" test by the United States is one of 67 known atmospheric nuclear tests in the Marshall Islands between 1946-1958, resulted in an ongoing legacy of death, illness, and contamination.

# 2025 Nuclear Weapons

Brandon Williams, nominated to be the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, recently recommended reliance on scientific information rather than restarting nuclear testing at his confirmation hearing. When asked if he believes that the United States currently possesses the capabilities to ensure the stockpile is safe, secure, and reliable – without the need to resume nuclear explosive testing – he responded “yes.”

“The United States continues to observe its 1992 nuclear test moratorium; and, since 1992, has assessed that the deployed nuclear stockpile **remains safe, secure, and effective without nuclear explosive testing.**”

*Brandon Williams*

*April 8, 2025 hearing before the Senate Committee on Armed Services*



Nuclear weapons testing craters in Nevada  
Image courtesy: Atomic Heritage Foundation

The government has not analyzed the environmental impacts that could result from full scale explosive nuclear testing in Nevada as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. That analysis would have to be carried out, including a public hearing in Nevada and a national public comment period, before any test could take place.

## Victory in Nevada!

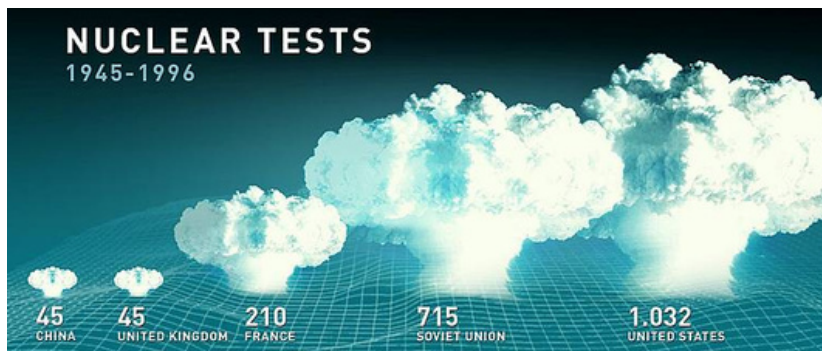
Nevada legislature unanimously passes resolution supporting U.S. moratorium on nuclear weapons testing.



*Joint resolution passed May 22, 2025*

*Image courtesy: Nevadans Against Nuclear Weapons Testing*

The state legislatures of Nevada recently unanimously passed a joint resolution urging the federal government to maintain the moratorium on the explosive nuclear testing, citing that over **72% of Nevada voters oppose the resumption of underground testing of explosive nuclear weapons.** The federal government should listen to the state of Nevada’s concerns and not resume explosive nuclear testing.



*Image courtesy: American Security Project*

# 2025 Nuclear Weapons

## STOP NEW WARHEADS

- The recent Budget Reconciliation Bill proposes \$2.4 billion for the nuclear Sea Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM-N) and its warhead over the next four years. Congress should not authorize or appropriate any funding for this system.

Reinstituting a SLCM-N, which was withdrawn from ships in 1991 by George H.W. Bush and subsequently retired, is wasteful and dangerous. **A new SLCM-N was said to have “zero value” according to the Defense Department’s briefings and it could be uniquely destabilizing by provoking further nuclear arms racing**, while also proving to be very costly – taking a decade or more to develop. Many of the costs are due to problems with the SLCM-N’s warhead development.

The federal government originally expected to use the W80-4 ALT, currently under development (though behind schedule) at Livermore Lab (where over \$90 million has already been spent). However, the warhead selection is now being renegotiated, with the agency exploring other alternatives for the SLCM-N.

No funds should be appropriated until the warhead is decided on, a master schedule is finalized, and a lifetime cost estimate is completed. Alternatively, Congress could cut this program and divert the resources to other urgent necessities.



*Sea-launched cruise missile are a bad idea.  
Image courtesy: Council for a Livable World*





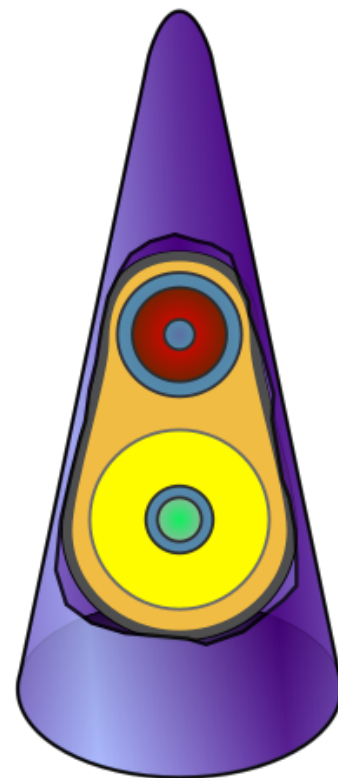
# 2025 Nuclear Weapons

- **The warhead for the Sentinel Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) should be terminated or re-scoped to allow full use of available W87-0s. The W87-1 funding should be reduced or eliminated. Production of its new plutonium pits should halt.**

The ground-based, ICBM leg of the nuclear triad is expensive to maintain, potentially destabilizing, and redundant of existing submarine and bomber capabilities. Additionally, ICBMs are vulnerable to attack and require a "launch on warning" strategy, increasing the risk of accidental nuclear war. The Sentinel ICMB, slated to replace the existing 400 Minuteman III ICBMs over the coming decades, is now slated to cost over \$140 billion (81% over its initial cost estimate), making it the most expensive nuclear weapon ever!

The Air Force recently acknowledged the Sentinel will likely require 450 new silos, adding to its enormous costs. Its new W87-1 warhead, the first warhead design since the end of the Cold War requiring all new components, is facing scheduling delays and cost overruns. The W87-1 requires new plutonium cores (a.k.a. "pits") to be produced at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), the first of which was completed in October 2024.

Due to delays and extreme costs, "extending the life" of Minuteman III's and the W87-0 warheads they use is now being explored. Rather than spending more on the W87-1 development, its plutonium pits, or the Sentinel Missile program generally, Congress should explore the less costly option of extending the life of Minuteman III's and their W87-0 warheads until the ICBM leg of the nuclear triad is retired.



*The W87-1 warhead with its new plutonium pits (bottom) is intended to sit on top of new Sentinel ICBMs.*

- **The W93 warhead should be terminated and the 1.2 megaton B83 bomb, currently slated for retirement at an unnamed time, should be fully retired in FY 2026.**

In 2025, the NNSA received \$456 million for the W93, a new submarine-launched ballistic missile warhead. This entirely new warhead is in the design definition stage and would not begin production until around 2035, with its new plutonium pits produced in the new Plutonium Processing Facility at Savannah River Site (SRS). The total cost estimate of the W93 program is more than \$15 billion. The W93 is unnecessary because the Navy already has two strategic warhead designs and both have been upgraded recently. The United Kingdom's warhead program (based on U.S. design) is its major driver. The W93 should be terminated. NNSA's FY 2024 budget placed the 1.2 megaton B83 bomb on a path to retirement at an unnamed time. That process should be accelerated and completed in FY 2026.

# 2025 Nuclear Weapons

## STOP NEW BOMB PLANTS

- **Cut funding for NNSA's "Plutonium Modernization". Congress should mandate a new pit aging study and NNSA should complete the new court-ordered Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement before plutonium pit production.**



*Pediatric nurse Ann Suellentrop is compelled, for the sake of children, to speak up.*

The U.S. lost industrial-scale plutonium pit production after the FBI raided the Rocky Flats Plant in 1989 to investigate environmental crimes. In 1996, NNSA relocated production to the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) in northern New Mexico but limited it to 20 pits per year. NNSA is now expanding production to at least 30 pits per year at LANL and at least 50 pits per year at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina. New pit production is not needed to maintain the safety and reliability of the existing, extensively tested nuclear weapons stockpile. Instead, these pits are for speculative new designs that cannot be tested because of the international testing moratorium. Investing in these new designs could motivate the U.S. to resume testing. (See [section on testing](#).)

In 2006, independent experts concluded that pits last at least 85 years (their average age is now ~42). Up to 20,000 existing pits are already stored at the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, TX. Unneeded pit production is extremely expensive (approximately \$60 billion over the next 25 years). Nevertheless, NNSA has no credible cost estimates or an "Integrated Master Schedule" recommended by the independent Government Accountability Office. **The SRS pit plant is slated to cost up to \$30 billion, making it the second most expensive building in history!**

In September 2024, a federal judge ruled that the NNSA had violated the National Environmental Policy Act by not completing a new programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) on expanded plutonium pit production. **Funding for "Plutonium Modernization" should be cut until a new PEIS, pit aging study, and credible cost estimates and schedules are completed.**



# 2025 Nuclear Weapons

- **Demand a full accounting of cost overruns at the Uranium Processing Facility.**



*Veteran for Peace Chris Overfelt*

NNSA is building the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) at the Y-12 Plant near Oak Ridge, TN. The agency repeatedly promised Congress that the UPF would never cost more than \$6.5 billion.

The UPF is now estimated to cost up to \$10.3 billion and continues to increase. NNSA moved the goal posts by stripping all non-production missions from the UPF and continuing operations at two contaminated facilities previously slated for decontamination and decommissioning.

- **Block DOE's proposed \$300 million budget ceiling for "General Plant Projects."**

New DOE Secretary Chris Wright says he wants to dramatically increase the budget ceiling for "General Plant Projects" (so-called "minor construction") to \$300 million from \$50 million. For projects between \$300 million and \$1 billion he would only require project reviews at "critical decision points." This is an excessive waste of taxpayers' dollars.

Massive cost overruns are the rule, not the exception, as demonstrated by the SRS pit plant and the UPF. DOE and NNSA (and its predecessors) have been on the GAO's "High Risk List" for project mismanagement since 1991. Congress needs to exercise far greater oversight, demand credible cost estimates at the beginning of projects, and preserve its constitutional "power of the purse" over the bloated nuclear weapons complex.



*Ann Suellentrop, left, and Jane Stoeber*

***Massive cost overruns are the rule, not the exception.***

# 2025 Nuclear Weapons

## SUPPORT RULE OF LAW & NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

- **Pass H.Res.317 to lead the world back from the brink of nuclear war.**

House Resolution 317, a follow-on to last year's House Resolution 77, makes nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of the national security policy of the U.S. It calls on the U.S. to lead the world back from the brink of nuclear war and halt and reverse the nuclear arms race. It preserves the moratorium on nuclear testing and protecting radiation-impacted communities and workers through full remediation, compensation, and expanded health care, including an expanded Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA).

H.Res.317 plans a just economic transition for the civilian and military workforce involved in the development, testing, production, management, and dismantlement of nuclear weapons and for the communities that are economically dependent on nuclear weapons laboratories, production facilities, and military bases. **These calls tie into ANA's other asks, making H.Res.317 a comprehensive nuclear disarmament resolution.**



**FIGHT FOR A  
SAFER WORLD  
WITHOUT  
NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS**

*Representatives:  
Co-Sponsor  
House Res # 317*

 **BACK  
FROM THE  
BRINK**

# 2025 Nuclear Weapons



- **Pass H.R.1888 to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.**

Article VI of the 1970 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), signed by the U.S., mandates the U.S. to "pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament..." The U.S., along with other nuclear weapons states, has failed to do so.

In response to the failure of weapons states to honor the Non-Proliferation Treaty's 55-year-old obligation to pursue nuclear disarmament negotiations, 122 countries voted to adopt the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in 2017. The TPNW entered into force and became part of international law in January 2021. The treaty is significant because under international law, all facets of nuclear weapons are now illegal. As of 2025, 94 countries have signed and 73 countries ("states parties") have ratified the treaty; however, no nuclear weapons states have done so. The U.S. should support this treaty and be a leader for other nuclear weapons states to follow.

H.R.1888 calls on the U.S. to sign the TPNW and convert nuclear weapons industry resources and personnel to purposes related to addressing the climate crisis. This would be accomplished through the development of clean, renewable energy sources, addressing human and infrastructure needs, environmental restoration, and actively promoting policies to induce other countries to join in on these commitments.

By signing the NPT, the U.S. agreed to take steps towards nuclear disarmament, yet has failed to honor its obligation. It is time to follow through!

Congress should pass H.R.1888.





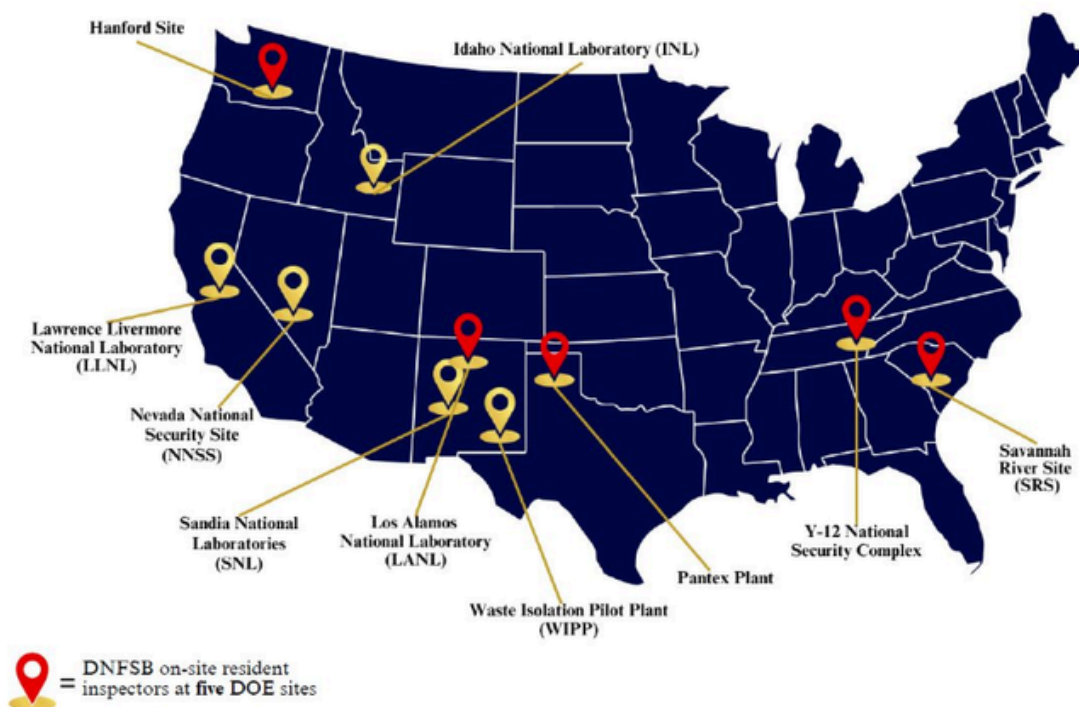
# 2025 Nuclear Weapons

## PROTECT THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD (DNFSB)

- **Maintain DNFSB quorum.** This requires Republicans on the Senate Armed Services Committee recommend a Presidential nomination of at least one new Board Member that the Senate approves. Better still would be three Senate-approved nominees (two Republicans and one Democrat), bringing the Board to full membership.
- **Ensure DNFSB receives full funding authorization in the National Defense Authorization Act, and that the funding is fully appropriated for FY 2026.**

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB or Board) is an independent organization within the executive branch of the Federal Government. The DNFSB is chartered with the responsibility to provide recommendations and advice to the Secretary of Energy regarding public health and safety issues at DOE defense nuclear facilities, including with respect to the health and safety of employees and contractors. Congress established the Board in 1988 in response to longtime, ongoing concerns about the level of health and safety protection that DOE was providing the public and workers at defense nuclear facilities, including concerns from ANA groups.

### DOE Sites with Defense Nuclear Facilities



# 2025 Nuclear Weapons

There are five positions on the Board for experts in the field of nuclear safety with demonstrated competence and knowledge relevant to its independent investigative and oversight functions. Since early 2025, the Board has been reduced to just two members, Mr. Thomas A. Summers, whose term ends in October, and Dr. Patricia L. Lee; and has a temporary one-year statutory quorum. Since there is no indication that Mr. Summers might be allowed to extend his term, the Board may be down to one person, lacking a quorum. The Board receives its funding authorization through the NDAA and appropriation in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill.

As the U.S. continues its nuclear weapons modernization plans, including the massive plan to produce new plutonium pits (the plutonium trigger at the core of all nuclear weapons), the DNFSB provides essential independent analysis and expert recommendations to DOE. The Board ensures accountability in regard to safety standards and increased public transparency during this dangerous expansion. **Board recommendations have also resulted in saving millions of dollars by preventing accidents and providing a basis to modify or not build facilities.**

Maintaining a Board quorum preserves the DNFSB's ability to issue formal recommendations, impose reporting requirements, and conduct hearings, thus ensuring that DOE avoids accidents and remains accountable. ANA has supported the DNFSB since its beginnings and has relied on its reports, recommendations and public transparency to supplement our calls for safety and accountability across the sites it oversees. At this dangerous time of rapid program expansion to carry out nuclear weapons modernization, the DNFSB's work is more important than ever!

We're all safer  
because of the



The DNFSB provides independent analysis, advice, and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy, to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety at defense nuclear facilities, including the health and safety of employees and contractors.



*Madonna of the Glove Box*

Robert Del Tredici, The Atomic Photographers Guild

Glove boxes inside the Plutonium Finishing Plant were used to reclaim plutonium and americium from waste produced at Hanford



# 2025 Cleanup & Waste Management

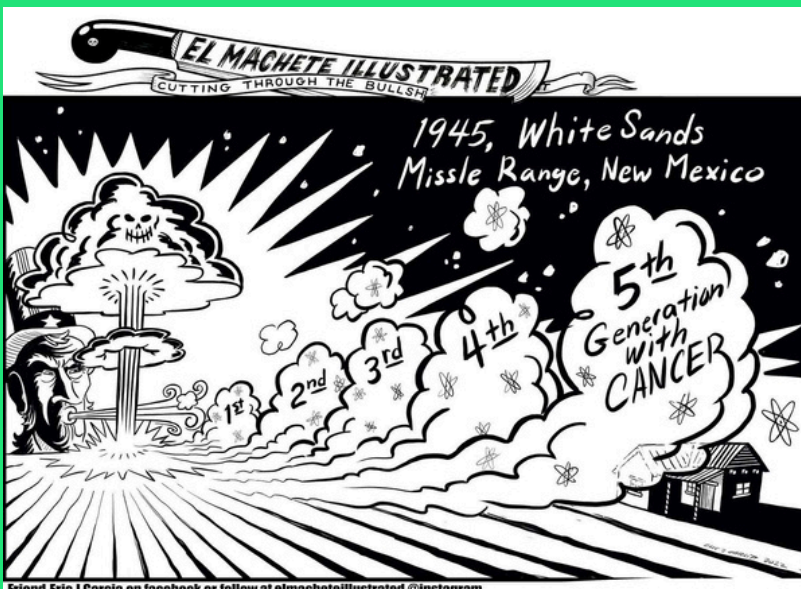
## Full Cleanup, Full Funding, Protect Everyone



- Reauthorize & Expand RECA
- Fully fund cleanup. Dramatically increase well-managed spending on cleanup now to save billions of dollars in the future. Stop paying to babysit waste, increase funding for comprehensive cleanup.
- Protect communities from radioactive & toxic contamination now & in the future. Transparency is critical.

We are calling on Congress to protect everyone by spending radically more on cleanup of the Cold War mess now. The atomic workers and the downwind public must continue to receive funding to reimburse costs they have incurred and are incurring due to past weapons programs. **The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) must be reinstated and expanded to cover uranium workers and downwind victims in several states.** The Senate passed such legislation (S. 3853) in March 2024.

The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, originally enacted in 1990, provided financial compensation to individuals who suffered specific health conditions due to radiation exposure. This exposure resulted from atmospheric nuclear testing or employment in the nuclear weapons production industry during the Cold War. From its inception until the law was allowed to sunset in 2024, the program awarded more than \$2.5 billion to more than 39,000 claimants across the American Southwest, including "Downwinders" in Utah, Nevada and Arizona, and uranium workers across the Four Corners region. Reinstatement and expansion of RECA.



“Downwinders are people who live downwind, downstream, up the food chain, down the generations from these radioactive exposures [from] nuclear weapons testing fallout.”

– Kevin Kamps, Beyond Nuclear

Friend Eric J Garcia on facebook or follow at elmacheteillustrated @instagram.

Image courtesy: [Eric J. Garcia](#)

# 2025 Cleanup & Waste Management

Most of DOE's environmental liabilities are managed by the Environmental Management (EM) program, which addresses the legacy of contamination from the nuclear weapons complex. This includes managing thousands of contaminated facilities formerly used in the nuclear weapons program, overseeing the safe management of large quantities of radioactive waste and nuclear materials, and cleanup of large volumes of contaminated soil and water.

DOE chronically under-requests funding for cleanup in contrast to weapons production spending. Congress typically increases funding above the President's request. We're calling on Congress to do more. **By investing more taxpayer dollars in cleanup, Congress can reduce long-term costs and protect the health of future generations.** Estimated life-cycle costs have increased from \$475.2 billion in FY 2015 to \$882.1 billion in FY 2025. It is time to stop paying contractors to babysit waste sites. **Dramatically increased, well-managed spending on cleanup in the next few years will save billions in the future, and will protect the health of workers and the public.**

Despite the high price tag, the estimated environmental liabilities include the versions of cleanup that DOE can justify while leaving much of the waste behind. We want more cleanup, less shortcuts.

## US Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request

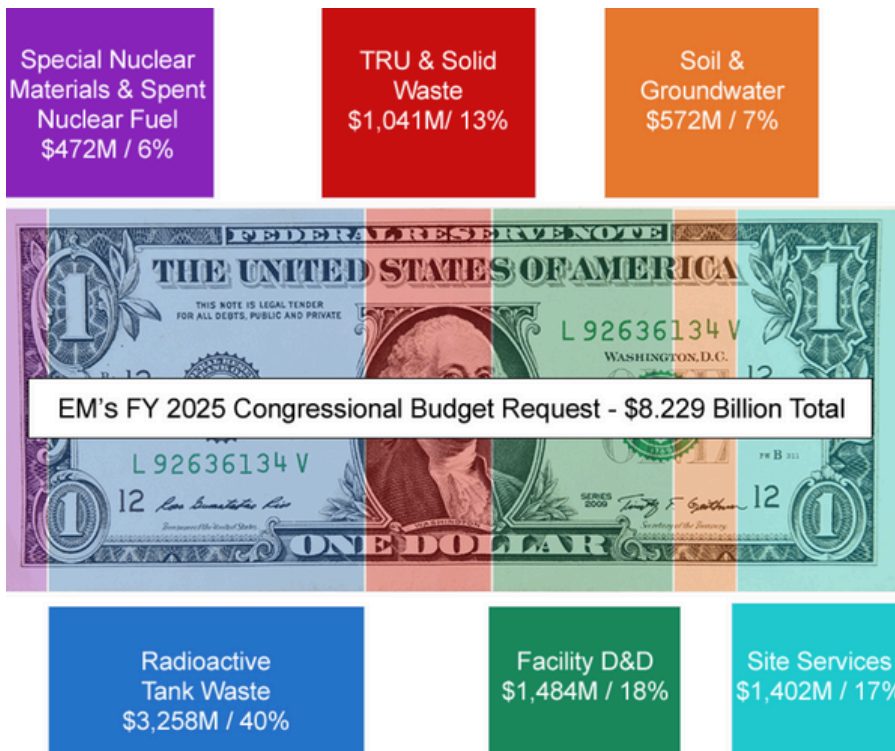


Image courtesy: USDOE EM

For instance, DOE's preferred alternative for an estimated \$12 million cleanup of Materials Disposal Area C, at Los Alamos National Laboratory, is to cap-and-cover the 11.8 acre site. This would leave the wastes above the regional aquifer forever. However, the New Mexico Environment Department is requiring complete excavation of Area C at an estimated cost of \$805 million. That's \$790 million more than DOE has in its current estimate.

**Increase FY 2025 funding to ensure comprehensive cleanup. Stop the shortcuts.**

# 2025 Cleanup & Waste Management

## Don't Fund Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS) for Commercial Irradiated Nuclear Fuel



Public opposition to proposed "interim" CIS nuclear dump.

- **No funding for federal consolidated "interim" storage.**

Cut all funding for federal consolidated "interim" storage of nuclear power waste. Keep title and liability with the generators of the waste until it goes to a permanent repository, as required in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Do not transfer costs and liability to taxpayers.

- **No funding for the formerly proposed Yucca Mountain site.**

Do not fund the cancelled, formerly proposed Yucca Mountain repository site. Yucca Mountain was chosen politically and found to be unable to meet the technical standards, even when they were weakened. The site is riddled with volcanoes, high earthquake risks, and the inability to isolate the radioactivity from the water. The State of Nevada and the Western Shoshones, on whose land the site was chosen, said "no." No nuclear waste site should be forced on any community.



- **Require Hardened Onsite Storage (HOSS) to minimize unnecessary transportation of waste. Keep the waste as close to the generating site as possible until there is a scientifically suitable repository.**

Require hardened on-site storage (HOSS) for commercial irradiated nuclear fuel and commercial high-level waste to improve safety. Abandon plans for Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS). It is safer to leave fuel where it is for now, hardened, while legislating to direct future attempts to site a permanent disposal facility using broad-based, full, free, prior, and informed consent.



# 2025 Cleanup & Waste Management

HOSS minimizes transportation risks. CISs unnecessarily double transport risks. Highly radioactive wastes should only be transported once, from nuclear power plant sites to a safe, sound, permanent geological repository. Shipping waste only one time to its final destination is the safer option and minimizes the high-risk of radioactive waste transportation through most states in the Lower 48.



*Image Courtesy: Nuclear Information and Resource Service*

Cleanup of our nation's nuclear legacy is a multi-generational endeavor; with long-term monitoring required forever to keep chemical and radioactive contamination isolated from our water, wildlife, and shared resources. ANA strongly opposes targeting already disproportionately burdened low-income and/or Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities with consolidated interim storage facilities.

Consent-based siting criteria must be required by law and include free, full, prior, informed consent by all affected Tribal, state, and local governments, including along transportation routes. Low-income and/or BIPOC communities are already disproportionately burdened by pollution and should not be targeted.

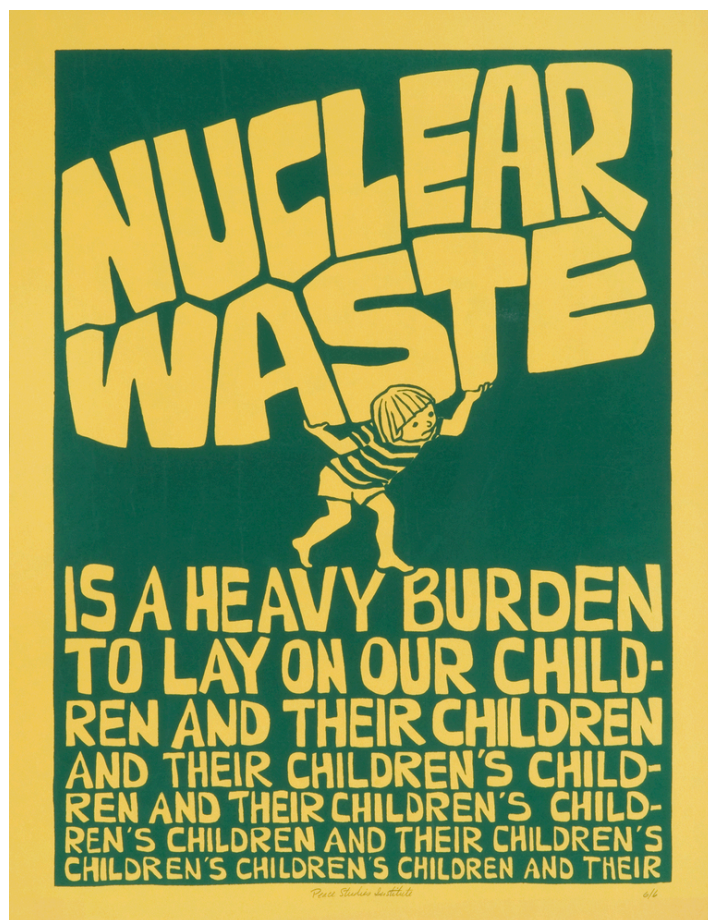
Congress can make this a reality by increasing funding for environmental protection and stopping attempts to shortcut cleanup, to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable communities.

**Learn More:** <https://tinyurl.com/saynotoCIS>



*Image Courtesy: San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace*

Some sites are not safe or secure enough to accomplish HOSS. In that case, hardened waste should be stored close to its point of origin, further inland from surface waters, and on higher ground as a precaution against flooding risks.



*Nuclear Waste Is A Heavy Burden by Mary Lynn Sheetz, Peace Studies Institute, Silkscreen, 1977 | Image courtesy of the artist & the Center for the Study of Political Graphics, [www.politicalgraphics.org](http://www.politicalgraphics.org).*

# 2025 Cleanup & Waste Management



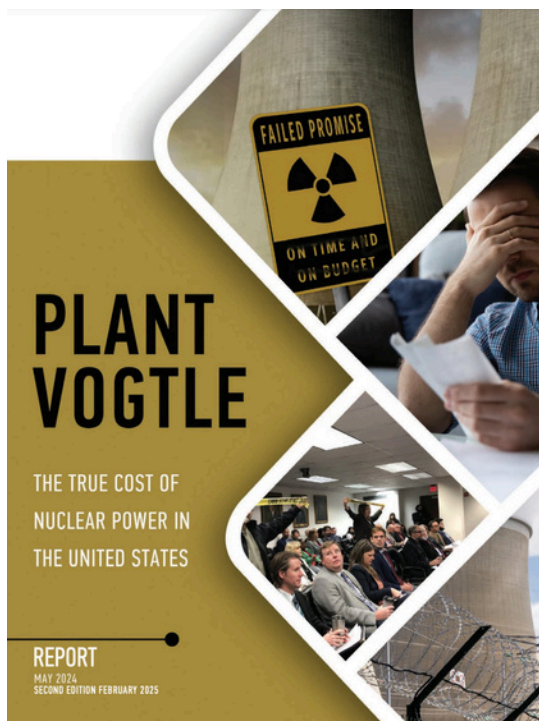
## Stop Making Long-Lasting, Intensely Radioactive Waste

### No Funding for New Reactors, No Reprocessing, No Subsidies

- **No funding or subsidies for new nuclear reactors or restart of closed reactors, which are dangerous and embrittled.**

Nuclear power is extraordinarily expensive in all of its forms and creates radioactive waste which poses a forever threat to human and environmental health. All of the costs involved in building new nuclear power and weapons facilities need to be factored in, including the cost of isolating the radioactive waste in perpetuity and the cost to human health and safety. When the true cost of nuclear is revealed, it doesn't make sense (or cents).

New nuclear reactors are a bad idea. The lead "Small Modular Reactor" (SMR) development scheme — NuScale's SMR in Idaho — was cancelled. Most other SMR designs have yet to be certified, despite large federal subsidies. SMRs are repeating the failure of the large-scale reactor building "renaissance" (relapse) during the George W. Bush administration: of three-dozen proposed reactors, only two have slogged into operation. Vogtle 3 and 4 in Georgia arrived many years behind schedule; their price tag more than doubled since 2012, from \$15 billion to \$36.8 billion.



2025 Report by Georgia WAND, Nuclear Watch South & Cool Planet Solutions  
[truthaboutvogtle.com](http://truthaboutvogtle.com)

License extensions pose catastrophic risks in the short and long-term. A growing number of reactors are applying for "subsequent license renewal," for 80-years of operations, twice their initial 40-year licenses. If approved, this would increase age-related degradation risks of reactor core meltdowns and reactors would continue to generate more metric tons of irradiated fuel.

Reactor meltdown and irradiated fuel risks also increase when restarting closed, age-degraded reactors. Holtec proposes restarting Palisades in Michigan. It has requested \$8.3 billion in public bailouts to do so, while ignoring extreme safety risks at the 60-year old reactor. Three Mile Unit 1 in Pennsylvania, and Duane Arnold in Iowa, have now followed Palisades' restart scheme precedent. Restarts need to stop.

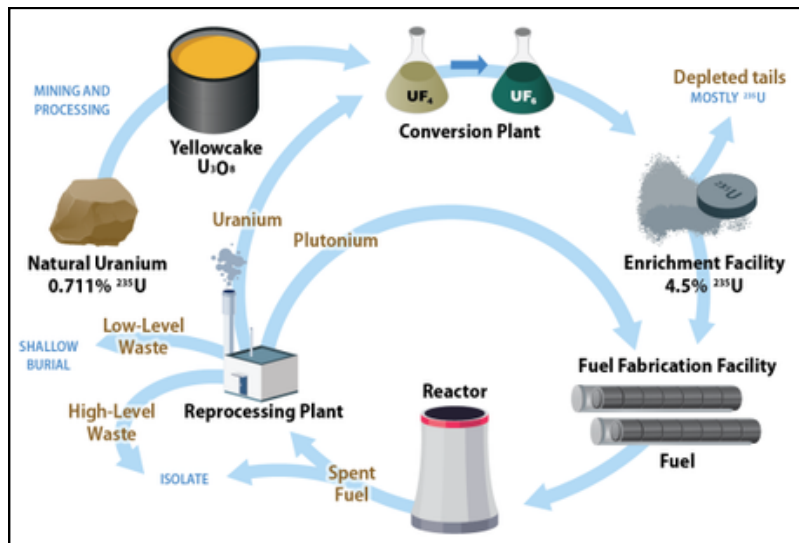
Subsidies mask the prohibitive cost of nuclear power. As reported by Nuclear Information and Research Service (NIRS), nuclear power subsidies in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (\$383 billion) are larger than the law's climate spending (\$369 billion). Nuclear power costs too much, takes too long, and makes too much radioactive waste. Nuclear power creates more problems than it solves.



# 2025 Cleanup & Waste Management

- **No funding for reprocessing.**

Reprocessing is mischaracterized as 'recycling' but this is not accurate. Irradiated or 'spent' fuel (from the reactor core) is reprocessed by disassembling the rods, chopping them up, and dissolving them in chemicals to separate the uranium and plutonium from the hundreds of other radioactive isotopes that were created while the fuel was in the core. The fuel is so radioactive that reprocessing must be carried out remotely from behind leaded glass. Unshielded exposure is lethal within minutes.



## Radioactive Waste At Every Step

Source: U.S. Government Accountability Office, Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel - Congressional Action Needed to Break Impasse and Develop a Permanent Disposal Solution, GAO-21-603, 2021.

According to the DOE database, irradiated or "spent" nuclear power fuel contains over 95% of all the radioactivity in the nuclear power and weapons fuel chain. The use of spent fuel with higher concentrations of uranium, such as high-burnup fuel and High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU), will result in even more concentrated waste. The hot fission products like radioactive cesium, strontium, and iodine stay dangerous for hundreds of years and cause cancer, heart disease, reduced immunity, genetic damage, and birth defects.

All reprocessing facilities have extensively contaminated the surrounding environment and created many new and deadly waste streams such as radioactive salt cake, transuranic wastes, liquid high-level waste, and sludge which must then be solidified and isolated for eons.

**Reprocessing makes the waste problem worse. It causes enormous worker exposures; disperses high-level radioactive waste into land, water, and food chains; and creates more waste streams that must be managed and isolated from the environment for millenia.**

**All reprocessing facilities have extensively contaminated the surrounding environment and created many new and deadly waste streams.**



"Burning Money" image by Gene Case/Avenging Angels

# ANA Member Groups

- Beyond Nuclear
- Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
- Colorado Coalition for the Prevention of Nuclear War
- Columbia Riverkeeper
- Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
- Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health
- Georgia Women's Action for New Directions (WAND)
- Hanford Challenge
- Heart of America Northwest
- Justpeace
- Marshallese Educational Initiative
- Miamisburg Environmental Safety & Health
- Native Community Action Council
- Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
- Nuclear Energy Information Services
- Nuclear Watch New Mexico
- Nuclear Watch South
- Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance
- Parents Against Santa Susana Field Laboratory
- Peace Action
- Peace Farm
- Peaceworks Kansas City
- Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)
  - PSR Los Angeles
  - PSR Kansas City
- Portsmouth/Piketon Residents for Environmental Safety and Security (PRESS)
- Rocky Mountain Peace & Justice Center
- Savannah River Site Watch
- Snake River Alliance
- Southwest Research & Information Center
- Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment (CAREs)
- Women's Action for New Directions
- Women's International League for Peace & Freedom

## Friends of ANA

- Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER)
- Lawyer's Committee on Nuclear Policy
- Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE)
- Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS)
- San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace
- Social and Environmental Research Institute
- Western States Legal Foundation



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[ananuclear.org](http://ananuclear.org)



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