
Issue Brief – High Level Nuclear Waste Operation

TEQNA-IB-01

SUMMARY

Utah Tomorrow Goals state the importance to protect the public and the environment from exposure to contamination caused by the improper management of hazardous waste. The Goshute Tribe of Native Americans and Private Fuel Storage have made application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for permission to temporarily store spent nuclear rods at a facility on the Goshute Reservation in Tooele County. The licensing procedure will continue throughout FY 2007 and beyond.

DISCUSSION

The Department of Environmental Quality has been involved in investigations to identify, evaluate, and communicate risks associated with the storage of high level nuclear waste in Utah. Governor Leavitt established an office through executive order within the Department of Environmental Quality to officially oppose storage of high level nuclear waste in Utah. Some of the duties of this office have been to organize hearings, continue with discovery of issues, hiring and use of expert witnesses, conducting depositions out of state, use of court reporters, preparing trial materials, and filing various pleadings in order to prevent these materials from coming to Utah.

Last year the State prevailed regarding a contention involving risk of a crash or dropped ordinance by a F-16 or similar military aircraft associated with the Utah Test and Training Range adjacent to the proposed storage site.

The Legislature has appropriated \$5,147,300 over the last five fiscal years for this initiative.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Analyst recommends that the Transportation, Environmental Quality, and National Guard Appropriations Subcommittee consider the funding of \$250,000 one time from the General Fund for the continued initiative against high level nuclear waste storage in Utah.