

QUESTION 15

Given that the American public is rightly concerned about this waste spread across the country at 129 sites, especially in the wake of what happened in Japan, what is the Administrations Timeline for fulfilling its obligations in assuming responsibility of this waste?

ANSWER

Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended, the Department of Energy is responsible for the ultimate disposal of spent nuclear fuel from power reactors in the United States. This responsibility remains unchanged in spite of ongoing actions by the Department of Energy to withdraw its license application. The NRC is not aware of any time line presently established by the Department of Energy to fulfill its statutory responsibility for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel. NRC is confident that spent fuel from any reactor can be stored safely and securely for at least 60 years beyond the licensed life of the reactor, and that safe geologic disposal of spent fuel is technically feasible.