
H.R. 3643 (CONAWAY), INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STORAGE ACT OF 2015

POSITION

The Chamber's Board of Directors voted to **SUPPORT H.R. 3643** November 19, 2015.

STATUS: *Introduced and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on September 29, 2015.*

SUMMARY

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 currently requires the Department of Energy to move nuclear waste to a permanent repository.

H.R. 3643 would amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to allow interest earned by the Nuclear Waste Fund to be used to pay for interim consolidated storage facilities for nuclear waste.

The legislation would provide for a potential solution to a critical infrastructure need by allowing for a region volunteering to host an interim waste storage facility, and communities around the country that have nuclear waste – including San Diego – to enter into an agreement to for an interim, however long-term, storage solution.

ANALYSIS

While this action does not preclude the Yucca Mountain being the permanent storage facility for the nuclear waste currently housed at San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, it does acknowledge the current political stagnation on the issue by creating an interim solution. The Yucca Mountain site remains the sole candidate for permanent disposal

San Onofre is an example of one of many facilities across the nation with high level nuclear waste stored in facilities that were not intended to be used as long-term storage. San Onofre, is located near an active fault line, along the I-5 and the Pacific Ocean, and near two heavily populated Counties. It is not ideal for nuclear waste storage.

According to the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future, the cost of required monitoring would be greatly reduced by consolidating sites as it costs about as much to monitor each single reactor site as it would cost to monitor a consolidated site.

Overview:

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San Onofre, located near an active fault line, along the I-5 and the Pacific Ocean, and near two heavily populated Counties, is not ideal for nuclear waste storage and a perfect example of one of many facilities across the nation.