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DOE says new nuclear waste repository possible in 2048

The nation would begin operating a deep geologic repository for high-level radioactive waste, including Hanford waste, and used nuclear fuel by 2048 under a new strategy.

The Department of Energy on Friday released a report outlining its strategy for addressing the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. The administration endorsed the key principles that underpin the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations, which were developed over two years by a panel of scientists, nuclear energy experts, industry leaders and former elected officials. The DOE strategy represents an initial basis for discussions among the administration, Congress and the public on a path forward for disposal of nuclear waste, said the DOE strategy report.

The strategy is needed after the Obama administration shut down work toward making Yucca Mountain, Nev., the nation's repository for used commercial nuclear fuel and high-level waste fuel. Hanford officials had planned to send to Yucca Mountain 2,347 tons of used nuclear fuel plus a projected 9,700 canisters of high-level radioactive waste once the waste has been glassified at its \$12.2 billion vitrification plant under construction.

The DOE strategy report recommends building a pilot storage facility with limited capacity that would temporarily store used nuclear fuel, initially from reactors that already have been shut down.

Then a full-scale temporary storage facility would be built, potentially located with the pilot facility or geologic repository, to provide progress in meeting the federal commitment to accept used commercial nuclear fuel. DOE's goal would be to have it operating by 2025.

The government could consider the feasibility of also accepting weapons waste, such as Hanford waste or used fuel, at the pilot scale and larger temporary storage facilities, the strategy report said. That could demonstrate the capabilities and flexibility of operations, it said. The nation should have a site picked for the repository by 2026, the repository designed and licensed by 2042 and the repository operating starting by 2048, the report said.

The administration will need Congress to pass legislation to carry out much of its proposed strategy.

Electricity Pricing – Jan 15, 2012

	On-Peak	Off-Peak
2013	\$.03826	\$.02488
2014	\$.04059	\$.02670
2015	\$.04257	\$.02828

LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Jan, 2012	\$.03043
Feb, 2012	\$.02963
Mar, 2012	\$.02894
April, 2012	\$.02659
May, 2012	\$.02816
June, 2012	\$.03089
July, 2012	\$.04303
Aug, 2012	\$.03112
Sep, 2012	\$.03034
Oct, 2012	\$.02829
Nov, 2012	\$.03327
Dec, 2012	\$.03081
Jan1 – Jan 14, 2013	\$.028836

Extended Temperature Forecast:

Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	32	36	28	43	40
Low	20	22	23	33	16

