

House Energy & Commerce Committee



Republicans

[Bill text](#)

Beginning Nuclear Fuel Recycling

The bill authorizes the Department of Energy's Nuclear Waste Fund to enter into long-term contracts with a commercial company to recycle spent fuel from utility reactors.

- Utilities will save money thanks to new competition in the fuel market as they reduce reactor site storage problems. The fund would save money because paying a company to recycle the fuel shrinks the volume and radioactivity of what ultimately goes into geological storage.
- Fuel volume can be reduced by as much as 95 percent.
- The recycling plant would be run entirely by a commercial, for-profit company that would win the competitive bid based upon best overall value to the waste fund. But the company would actually have two sets of customers: the waste fund and the utilities.
- The bidding for this project should be highly competitive. The recycling plant gets to sell the same "output" twice: Utilities buy back the fuel that is reprocessed and DOE pays for the chance to avoid the cost of storing high volume un-recycled spent fuel.
- The bill also safeguards against proliferation of materials that could be used in nuclear weapons and directs the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to expedite a rulemaking creating a licensing process for the facility.

