

Dealing with a National Problem

Part I

Directions: Match the response on the right with the term on the left by placing the appropriate letter on the line provided. Use each response only once.

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| 1. Site Characterization | a) Nevada filed this after Yucca Mountain was found suitable for a geologic repository |
| 2. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board | b) responsible for establishing health and safety standards for a repository |
| 3. Nuclear Regulatory Commission | c) scientific studies to determine if an area is suitable for an underground repository |
| 4. Notice of Disapproval | d) evaluates the Department of Energy's technical and scientific studies and findings at Yucca Mountain |
| 5. Nuclear Waste Policy Act | e) directed the Department of Energy to focus only on Yucca Mountain |
| 6. Environmental Impact Statement | f) process that uses computer models to evaluate the future safety of the repository |
| 7. Total System Performance Assessment | g) established national policy for safely storing, transporting, and disposing of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste |
| 8. Certification | h) shipping casks must go through this process before they're approved for use |
| 9. Environmental Protection Agency | i) examines how a repository would impact people, the environment, and the economy |
| 10. 1987 Amendments Act | j) responsible for certifying transportation containers and for licensing the repository |

Part II

Managing our nation's nuclear waste is a complex technical and societal issue. What is the U.S. government's planned response to this issue?

Directions: In the blank provided, write the number of the U.S. government's planned response to each problem listed. There may be more than one response to a problem.

Problem	Planned Response
A. There was no national policy for safely storing, transporting, and disposing of highly radioactive waste. Response: _____	1. Following transportation regulations of federal, state, and local agencies 2. Independent review of all aspects of the waste disposal program
B. The site selected for the repository must meet strict guidelines developed to protect the environment and ensure public safety. Response: _____	3. Shipping casks subjected to tests 4. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act and amendments passed by Congress
C. The major concern with the nation's nuclear waste disposal program is safety. Response: _____	5. Field and laboratory testing at potential site 6. U.S. government required to pay costs for disposing of defense high-level waste
D. Disposing of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste is expensive. Response: _____	7. Environmental assessments and environmental impact statements 8. Detailed site characterization
E. It is important that the public have confidence in the safety of disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. Response: _____	9. Utilities pay fee for disposing of their spent nuclear fuel 10. State and local government and public participation in the planning and development of the repository required
F. Spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste must be transported safely. Response: _____	