

Additional Sections Suggested by Senator Alexander for Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 2013
Section-by-Section Summary
April 2013

Senator Alexander proposes striking parts (b) through (g) of Section 304 and replacing them with:

Section 305 – Consolidated Storage Facilities

Directs the Administrator to license, construct, and operate one or more government or non-federally owned consolidated storage facilities for interim storage of spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste.

Requires the Administration to—

- issue a request for proposals for cooperative agreements for a pilot program for storing priority waste within 180 days;
- establish guidelines for consideration of storage facilities;
- select at least one site for characterization from those which meet suitability criteria, after holding at least two public hearings and notifying Congress;
- obtain state and local (and tribal if on an Indian reservation) consent to study sites;
- characterize the site and determine its suitability;
- obtain state and local (and tribal if on an Indian reservation) consent to site a storage facility;
- receive Congressional approval for the terms of the consent agreement and construction of the storage facility; and
- obtain a license from the NRC to construct the facility.

Authorizes the administrator to issue additional requests for proposals and select such additional storage facilities for nonpriority waste as the Administrator determines to be necessary [in accordance with the Mission Plan].

Senator Alexander proposes inserting Section 306, establishing a separate siting process for repositories. The language mirrors the repository-specific provisions of the Section 304 siting process in the main draft.

Section 306 – Repositories

Establishes a new siting process, applicable to repositories only, that is based on sound science and meaningful collaboration with affected communities.

Requires the new nuclear waste agency to—

- establish technical siting guidelines to evaluate sites;
- solicit states and communities to volunteer sites;
- obtain state and local (and tribal if on an Indian reservation) consent to study sites;
- hold multiple public hearings before studying or selecting sites;
- obtain state and local (and tribal if on an Indian reservation) consent to site a repository;
and
- obtain congressional ratification of any consent agreement for a site.