
About.com US Government Info

ally
Straightforward

With the chance to make it even sweeter.



[Share](#)

[Print](#)

Nuclear Weapons: Pay Up to Cleanup

Dateline: 05/07/00

In an [April 14, 2000 press release](#), the Department of Energy (DOE) estimates that from \$151 billion to \$195 billion will be needed through the year 2070 for cleanup and closure of America's nuclear weapons facilities. In other words, in each of the next 70 years, the U.S. federal budget will include from \$2.1 billion to \$2.7 billion on cleaning up our nuclear past.

What has to be cleaned up?

What is America's Cold War legacy? The need to clear the environment of large volumes of nuclear materials, spent nuclear fuel, radioactive waste, and hazardous waste, resulting in contaminated facilities, soil, and groundwater at 113 locations around the country.

In its 1998 report [Paths to Closure](#), DOE projects a timeline and cost estimates for:

- remediating 1.7 trillion gallons of contaminated ground water, an amount equal to approximately four times the daily U.S. water consumption;
- remediating 40 million cubic meters of contaminated soil and debris, enough to fill approximately 17 professional sports stadiums;
- safely storing and guarding more than 18 metric tons of weapons-usable plutonium, enough for thousands of nuclear weapons;
- managing over 2,000 tons of intensely radioactive spent nuclear fuel, some of which is corroding;
- storing, treating, and disposing of radioactive and hazardous waste, including over 160,000 cubic meters that are currently in storage and over 100 million gallons of liquid, high-level radioactive waste;
- deactivating and/or decommissioning about 4,000 facilities that are no longer needed to support active DOE missions;
- implementing critical nuclear non-proliferation programs for accepting and safely managing spent nuclear fuel from foreign research reactors that contains weapons-usable highly enriched uranium; and
- providing long-term care and monitoring or stewardship for potentially hundreds of years at an estimated 109 sites following cleanup.

Next page [Major Nuclear Cleanup Sites - Details and Costs](#) >Page [1](#), [2](#)

[US Government Job Openings](#)

Links to vacancy announcements at dozens of agencies and military branches.

[Huge Index of Government Web Sites](#)

One of the largest lists of agencies, bureaus and offices on the Web.

[Military Questions?](#)

Guide Rod Powers probably has the answers.

Subscribe to the Newsletter

Name Email

Explore US Government Info

Free US Government Info Newsletter!

Enter email address

SIGN UP

By Category

- [Government Jobs](#)
- [Business and Money](#)
- [Rights and Freedoms](#)
- [Auction and Sales](#)
- [Consumer Awareness](#)
- [Census and Statistics](#)
- [U.S. Congress](#)
- [The President and Cabinet](#)
- [U.S. Court System](#)
- [Defense and Security](#)
- [Historic Documents](#)
- [The Political System](#)
- [Older Americans](#)
- [Healthcare](#)
- [Technology and Research](#)

Must Reads

- [States May Have Small Business Grants](#)
- [U.S. Citizenship Test](#)
- [Congress Salaries and Benefits](#)
- [How to Get a Federal Tax ID Number](#)
- [Money to Start a Small Business](#)

Most Popular

- [State Small Business Grants](#)
- [Questions and Answers for New Naturalization Test](#)
- [Sample INS Citizenship Questions](#)
- [Congress Salaries and Benefits](#)
- [Heart Attack Symptoms in Women](#)