



AN ACT ESTABLISHING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL OF THE SITING OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL STORAGE FACILITIES PRODUCED BY A NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING FACILITY OPERATING WITHIN THE STATE; PROVIDING A DEFINITION; AMENDING SECTION 75-20-204, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Section 1. Legislative approval of siting of spent nuclear fuel storage facilities -- conditions. (1)

The legislature authorizes the siting of temporary spent nuclear fuel storage facilities within the state. A facility is authorized if:

- (a) the facility is operated on the site of a nuclear power generating facility and stores spent nuclear fuel produced by a nuclear power generating facility operating within the state;
 - (b) the facility has received a state recommendation from the department of environmental quality, pursuant to 75-20-204; and
 - (c) the facility has received a license to construct and operate from the federal nuclear regulatory commission.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, "spent nuclear fuel" means nuclear fuel that has been used in a reactor and is no longer able to produce enough energy to sustain a reaction.

Section 2. Section 75-20-204, MCA, is amended to read:

"75-20-204. Facilities subject to federal energy regulatory commission jurisdiction and nuclear regulatory commission. (1) For a facility that is subject to the jurisdiction of the federal energy regulatory commission or the nuclear regulatory commission as authorized in [section 1], the department shall file a state recommendation with the commission.

(2) A person making application to the federal energy regulatory commission or the nuclear regulatory commission as authorized in [section 1] shall file with the department notice of and a copy of the federal application regarding any facility subject to subsection (1). The state recommendation must be based on its study of the federal application and other material gained through intervention in the federal proceeding.

(3) A person subject to the provisions of subsection (2) shall pay a fee to the department at the time that an application is filed with the federal energy regulatory commission or the nuclear regulatory commission as authorized in [section 1]. The fee must be used by the department to carry out its responsibilities to develop a state recommendation and participate as a party in any necessary federal proceeding to assert the state recommendation. The fee may not exceed one-half the amount that could be assessed under 75-20-215. A fee prescribed by 75-20-215 may not be assessed against a person paying a fee under this section.

(4) A person who fails to file a timely notice of and a copy of the federal application with the department, preventing the department from timely compliance with this section and with the rules, statutes, or procedures governing the proceedings before the federal energy regulatory commission or the nuclear regulatory commission as authorized in [section 1], is subject to the provisions of 75-20-408."

Section 3. Notification to tribal governments. The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

Section 4. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 75, chapter 20, and the provisions of Title 75, chapter 20, apply to [section 1].

Section 5. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 623, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

HOUSE BILL NO. 623

INTRODUCED BY G. PARRY, B. MITCHELL, K. ZOLNIKOV, G. HERTZ, C. NEUMANN

AN ACT ESTABLISHING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL OF THE SITING OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL STORAGE FACILITIES PRODUCED BY A NUCLEAR POWER GENERATING FACILITY OPERATING WITHIN THE STATE; PROVIDING A DEFINITION; AMENDING SECTION 75-20-204, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.