

# Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage Survey Report for Representative Bill Allemand

## Executive Summary

A survey conducted in 2025 among 113 constituents in Representative Ken Allemand's district regarding the potential storage of spent nuclear fuel in Wyoming reveals strong opposition, primarily due to environmental, safety, and community concerns. Despite 67.3% acknowledging potential economic benefits, 69.9% oppose storage even with economic incentives, and 78.8% are very concerned about environmental risks. This report summarizes key findings and provides recommendations to address constituent sentiments.

## Key Findings

- **Awareness of Current Law:** 73.5% (83 respondents) are aware that Wyoming law prohibits high-level radioactive waste storage, while 25.7% (29 respondents) are unaware (1 missing response).
- **Conditional Support for Storage:**
  - Oppose: 69.9% (79 respondents)
  - Support: 12.4% (14 respondents)
  - Undecided/Depends on specifics: 17.7% (20 respondents)
- **Environmental Concerns:**
  - Very concerned: 78.8% (89 respondents)
  - Somewhat concerned: 11.5% (13 respondents)
  - Not concerned: 9.7% (11 respondents)
- **Trust in Safety Measures:**
  - No: 65.5% (74 respondents)
  - Yes: 15.0% (17 respondents)
  - Unsure: 19.5% (22 respondents)
- **Temporary Storage Support:**
  - No: 71.7% (81 respondents)
  - Yes: 17.7% (20 respondents)

- Unsure: 9.7% (11 respondents) (1 missing response)
- **Transportation Risks:**
  - Yes: 78.8% (89 respondents)
  - No: 7.1% (8 respondents)
  - Depends on route/safety measures: 13.3% (15 respondents)
- **Economic Impact Belief:**
  - Yes: 67.3% (76 respondents)
  - No: 15.0% (17 respondents)
  - Unsure: 16.8% (19 respondents) (1 missing response)
- **Support for WY Business Council \$25M Grant:**
  - No: 70.8% (80 respondents)
  - Yes: 15.0% (17 respondents)
  - Unsure: 14.2% (16 respondents)

## Constituent Sentiments

Constituents strongly oppose nuclear waste storage, emphasizing concerns about environmental damage, health risks, and Wyoming's role as a potential "dumping ground."

Key themes include:

- **Environmental and Health Risks:** Comments like "Hinkley!!! Does no one remember? We do not need nuclear waste destroying our environment, water or our health!!!!" and "No matter what there is no safe nuclear storage" reflect deep fears of contamination.
- **Opposition to Proximity:** Many, particularly in Bar Nunn, oppose storage near residential areas, with sentiments like "If they are storing the spent fuel in Bar Nunn it will be less than a half mile from my house. I will lose significant money on my investment."
- **Distrust in "Temporary" Storage:** Constituents doubt the temporary nature of storage, noting "Temporary storage is a 40yr lease most of us will be gone when the renewal period is up" and "Once these so-called temporary storage facilities are brought to Wyoming, they will NEVER leave."

- **Economic Concerns vs. Risks:** While 67.3% see economic potential, opposition remains high, with comments like “Prosperity is not a reason to become a dumping ground for waste that will last forever.”
- **Demand for Transparency and Safety:** Respondents call for clear answers and stricter regulations, such as “Make an amendment to legislation to make nuclear facilities and storage facility where they are required to stay 10mi or more away from any housing.”

### Notable Comments

- “I’m concerned about property values in Bar Nunn as are many other home owners in my area.”
- “People need to stop fear lingering and making decisions on emotions and look at the facts. Scaring people into support is not the answer.” (Minority view)
- “Wyoming is not a trash can for the USA.”
- “FEMA & USGS have declared Wyoming as having a high seismic hazard with 6.25-6.5 magnitude possibility; active faults in Natrona, Fremont, Converse & Sweetwater counties - this is a significant risk.”
- “I believe the people of Wyoming don’t have a voice, and the state and county commissioners will find a way to change the laws.”

### Recommendations

1. **Public Education and Engagement:** Address the 25.7% unaware of current laws and widespread distrust by hosting public forums with transparent, science-based information on nuclear storage safety and risks.
2. **Strengthen Safety Regulations:** With 78.8% concerned about environmental risks and 65.5% distrusting storage technologies, propose legislation for buffer zones (e.g., 5-10 miles from residential areas) and rigorous safety oversight.
3. **Address Transportation Concerns:** Develop detailed transportation safety plans to alleviate the 78.8% concerned about risks, including specific routes and emergency protocols.
4. **Counter “Dumping Ground” Perception:** Emphasize Wyoming’s sovereignty and reject out-of-state waste storage to align with sentiments like “Store it where it is being produced.”

5. **Balance Economic and Safety Priorities:** While 67.3% see economic benefits, opposition is strong. Any proposal must prioritize community safety and long-term environmental protection over short-term gains.

## **Conclusion**

Constituents in Representative Allemand's district overwhelmingly oppose spent nuclear fuel storage, driven by fears of environmental damage, health risks, and distrust in temporary storage assurances. Representative Allemand should prioritize transparent communication, robust safety measures, and policies that protect Wyoming's communities and environment while addressing economic potential.

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