

Nuclear Reprocessing Amendments

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens

House Sponsor: Carl R. Albrecht

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates the Utah Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program within the Nuclear Energy Consortium.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates the Utah Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program;
- ▶ directs the Nuclear Energy Consortium (consortium) to administer the Utah Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program;
- ▶ requires the consortium to coordinate with federal agencies, national laboratories, and private entities to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a nuclear fuel recycling facility in the state;
- ▶ requires the consortium to conduct a feasibility study and site evaluation;
- ▶ requires the consortium to implement a public outreach and education program; and
- ▶ requires the consortium to report findings and recommendations to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

79-6-1202 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/27), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 375

ENACTS:

79-6-1203 (Effective 05/06/26), Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

31 Section 1. Section **79-6-1202** is amended to read:

32 **79-6-1202 (Effective 05/06/26) (Repealed 07/01/27). Consortium duties.**

33 (1) The consortium shall:

34 (a) provide knowledge and expertise to assist the office regarding nuclear energy
35 technologies, safety, and development; [~~and~~]

36 (b) develop recommendations regarding policy pertaining to:

37 (i) nuclear energy development in the state;

38 (ii) incentives for nuclear energy related industries in the state including industrial
39 process applications and other beneficial uses of nuclear technology;

40 (iii) partnerships between entities engaged in or supporting nuclear energy
41 development, including public and private sector collaboration; and

42 (iv) the appropriate regulatory framework for nuclear energy development in the state[:]
43 ; and

44 (c) administer the Utah Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program created in Section 79-6-1203.

45 (2) The office shall report annually on duties performed by the consortium on or before
46 November 30 to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee.

47 Section 2. Section **79-6-1203** is enacted to read:

48 **79-6-1203 (Effective 05/06/26). Utah Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program.**

49 (1) There is created within the consortium the Utah Nuclear Fuel Recycling Program.

50 (2) The consortium shall:

51 (a) coordinate with federal agencies, national laboratories, and private entities to
52 evaluate the feasibility of establishing a nuclear fuel recycling facility in the state;

53 (b) support the safe, commercial-scale recycling of spent nuclear fuel in a manner that
54 protects public health and the environment;

55 (c) promote economic development, technological advancement, and workforce training
56 related to nuclear fuel recycling;

57 (d) pursue federal funding, partnerships, and authorizations to support development of a
58 nuclear fuel recycling facility in Utah;

59 (e) in collaboration with appropriate public and private entities, conduct a technical,
60 economic, and environmental feasibility study that includes:

61 (i) evaluation of the recycling process for spent nuclear fuel;

62 (ii) assessment of the market value of recycled materials;

63 (iii) preliminary design documentation, cost estimation, and schedule for facility
64 construction;

- 65 (iv) identification of potential sites in Utah that:
66 (A) meet seismic stability and access criteria; and
67 (B) comply with federal standards for necessary facilities; and
68 (v) evaluation of appropriate methods for:
69 (A) transporting spent nuclear fuel to and from the selected site;
70 (B) reusing and reloading transport containers;
71 (C) temporary storage of by-products; and
72 (D) long-term waste management and disposal;
73 (f) implement a public outreach and education program to ensure transparency in
74 potential site selection and facility development; and
75 (g) submit a report on or before November 30 of each year to the Public Utilities,
76 Energy, and Technology Interim Committee that includes:
77 (i) findings and recommendations regarding the program; and
78 (ii) progress on the feasibility study and site evaluation described in Subsection (2)(e).
79 (3) The consortium shall administer the program in consultation with:
80 (a) the Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control created in Section
81 19-3-104; and
82 (b) any applicable federal or state entity with jurisdiction over nuclear materials.
83 **Section 3. Effective Date.**
84 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.