



ADVANCING RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR FUEL RECYCLING ACT OF 2025 (S. 3016 | H.R. 9197)

DATE INTRODUCED:

S. 3016 - 10/16/2025

H.R. 9197 - 06/16/2026

WHAT:

The Advancing Research in Nuclear Fuel Recycling Act of 2025 directs the Department of Energy (DOE) to carry out a study on the practicality, costs, benefits and risks of recycling used nuclear fuel, submit a report to Congress and make that report available to the public.

The study must cover:

- Creative approaches to siting, such as coupling recycling plants with existing nuclear infrastructure;
- How local stakeholders may be impacted;
- The cost and benefits of recycling used nuclear fuel;
- The feasibility of extracting isotopes for medical and industrial use; and
- Potential new federal and state-level policy that could accelerate recycling technology.

WHY IT MATTERS:

Used nuclear fuel is a valuable energy resource that strengthens American energy security and broadens the supply of rare elements and isotopes available for medicine and advanced technologies. With the U.S. ban on imported Russian uranium coming into full effect in 2028, the U.S. urgently needs to increase domestic fuel sources. Nuclear fuel recycling can be an effective contributor, but questions remain on the best ways to support development and deployment.

Accurate, up-to-date information is important to make informed decisions. The results from the study directed by the Advancing Research in Nuclear Fuel Recycling Act would give policymakers and stakeholders the information necessary to make decisions about recycling used nuclear fuel. Additionally, public access to this report would improve transparency and public awareness of DOE programs related to used nuclear fuel.

WHAT'S NEXT:

If enacted, within 90 days, the DOE would be required to carry out the study and, within one year, submit a report to Congress. After submitting the report to Congress, the report will be made publicly available.

The data from this study would provide accurate, up-to-date information integral for policymakers and stakeholders to make informed decisions related to nuclear fuel recycling.

ORIGINAL SPONSORS:

S. 3016

Senators Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM)

H.R. 9197

Rep. Tim Moore (R-NC) and Scott Peters (D-CA)

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