

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Section

**1** [116C.7781] **Definitions.** “Host community” means the cities of Red Wing, Monticello, or the Prairie Island Indian Community.

**2** [116C.7783] **Minnesota nuclear waste storage commission.**

**Subd. 1. Establishment.** Establishes the Minnesota Nuclear Waste Storage Commission, composed of ten members; the commissioners of homeland security and emergency management, commerce, natural resources, and pollution control; the director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery in the Department of Health; representatives from Red Wing, Monticello and the Prairie Island Indian Community; and two members at-large.

**Subd. 2. Duties.** Directs the commission to develop a strategy for the long-term storage of high-level radioactive waste from the state’s nuclear generating plants at Prairie Island and Monticello. A plan, due by January 15, 2002, to be updated every three years, must address the following issues:

- managing and securing the waste;
- monitoring the performance of storage casks, and replacing them when necessary; and
- monitoring the surrounding environment and the health of nearby residents.

The commission is also charged to ensure that host communities are adequately funded to provide public safety, fire, and emergency medical services connected with the

nuclear waste storage sites.

The commission is to distribute 75 percent of the funds remitted to it from the account established in section 3 equally among the three host communities. The funds are to be used to supplement, not supplant, local property taxes paid by a nuclear plant and current funding mechanisms that allow host communities to assess a nuclear plant owner for security-related costs under section 12.14.

**3 [Laws 1997, chapter 201, section 1] Nuclear waste escrow account.**

**Subd. 1. Remittance of proceeds.** Requires the public utilities commission to direct nuclear plants, beginning July 1, 2010, to divert the proceeds of the fee currently deposited in the federal Nuclear Waste Fund to the commissioner of homeland security and emergency management, who is to place them in the account established in subdivision 2. Deletes language directing the commissioner to release the funds to the federal Department of Energy when a permanent federal repository for nuclear waste begins operating.

Directs nuclear plants to continue diverting the fee to the commissioner until the plants no longer generate electricity from nuclear fuel or federal action releases them from the requirement to remit the fee to the federal Department of Energy, whichever occurs first.

**Subd. 2. Creation of account; appropriations.** Creates the nuclear waste escrow account and directs that:

- 50 percent of the funds be appropriated annually to the commissioner of homeland security to be used as specified in section 2, subdivision 2, until June 30, 2034;
- 50 percent of the funds deposited in the account annually remain in the account until the nuclear plants that produced the waste are fully decommissioned; and
- if high-level nuclear waste continues to be stored in this state after the plant that generated it begins decommissioning, any unspent decommissioning revenues to be used for waste-related purposes must be transferred to the Nuclear Waste Storage Commission.

**4 Revisor's instruction.** Directs the revisor to codify section 3 in Minnesota Statutes.