

WHAT DOES NUCLEAR WASTE HAVE TO DO WITH ME?

You may wish to use the attached list of utilities that own a nuclear powerplant and addresses to provide students with information which will enable them to contact nuclear powerplants and/or utilities in your area, State and region. It is suggested that students write or visit the powerplant of their choice and request answers to the following questions:

1. What area does the utility serve?
2. What energy sources does the utility use to generate electricity?
3. What percent of the electricity is produced by nuclear energy?
4. Does the utility ever sell electricity to utilities that have no nuclear powerplants?
5. How much spent fuel is stored at the powerplant?
6. How much additional storage capacity is there at the site?
7. Has the utility rearranged the fuel or consolidated fuel to gain additional space?
8. Has the utility shipped spent fuel to another site? Are there plans to do so?
9. How much has the utility paid into the Nuclear Waste Fund?
10. What are the plans for meeting future demand for electricity?

It might be interesting to assign different powerplants to different students or groups of students. Once information has been gathered, ask students to share the responses they received with the entire class. Discuss any differing responses and try to determine, as a class, what the reason might be for the differences among powerplants. Have students draw a conclusion relative to the necessity for development of a safe and environmentally acceptable method for the permanent disposal of radioactive waste based upon the answers they received from the various powerplants contacted.