



Utah Office of Energy Development

OPERATION GIGAWATT:

Utah's Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus

Governor Spencer J. Cox



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▲ U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright and Governor Cox gather at Hill Air Force Base to welcome the arrival of the Ward250 SMR on February 15, 2026.

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This document is a highly condensed version of the State of Utah's full response to the U.S. Department of Energy's Request for Information (RFI) from states interested in hosting a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus. To see the full response, visit energy.utah.gov/energy-information/publications or scan the QR Code at left.

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▲ Aerial shot of the Atlas rail-car carrying a test load simulating a shipment of used nuclear fuel





America's leadership of the free world through the 20th century was built on a foundation of energy dominance. Abundant, reliable energy powered our country's victories in the world wars, built the strongest middle class in history and facilitated the spread of democracy. Today, America is at a crossroads: we must decide whether to press forward with our tradition of energy dominance, or to sit back and watch as our adversaries take the lead. Utah is choosing the first path.

In Utah, with safety underpinning every action we take, we are committed to leveraging our resources and the extraordinary talents of our citizens to help

provide America with the abundant energy we need to fuel our economy, strengthen American families, win the race for AI leadership and ultimately ensure that the United States endures as the strongest and freest nation in history.

Nuclear power must play a central role in America's energy dominance. It has unmatched potential to provide firm, reliable, dispatchable, zero-emission power to our homes, businesses and industries, including our national security sector and data centers. Utah, a state with a storied history in uranium mining and home to America's only operating conventional uranium mill, is ready to become a leader in the nuclear fuel cycle. Utah has emerged as a critical player in America's nuclear economy, with Utah businesses providing key products and services for nuclear reactors across the country. The State's own Utah San Rafael Energy Lab will soon host one of America's first TRISO-fueled microreactors. But all of this is only the beginning as we seek to become a central hub in the nuclear renaissance.

With vast stretches of vacant, state-held trust land in our unpopulated desert regions, a highly educated and growing workforce, world-class universities performing cutting-edge nuclear research and strong support from the Utah State Legislature, Utah is an ideal state to host a U.S. Department of Energy "Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus." My team has identified a site that includes the transmission, transportation infrastructure and a growing housing base needed to support a campus, while also enjoying full support from local elected leaders. This location will serve as the hub of the robust nuclear buildout we anticipate in our region should Utah anchor the nation's nuclear ambitions in the Western U.S. In short, Utah possesses the attributes and willingness to provide the Department of Energy's quickest path to an operational Innovation Campus.

In Utah, we cherish our traditions, one of the greatest of which is building at the frontier. With this RFI response we stand at the brink

of another such opportunity. Utah is ready, willing and able to write the next chapter of American energy dominance.

Governor Spencer J. Cox

Governor Cox announces the Innovation
Campus pictured with Senator Scott
Sandall in Tooele County

MARCH 27, 2026

“Utah is a state of builders. At a time when America faces a fundamental choice between energy abundance and energy decline, Utah is choosing to build. As our nation looks to expand nuclear energy, we are ready to lead in innovation across the entire fuel lifecycle — from advanced fuel development to getting more energy out of the fuel we already have and responsibly managing it for the long term. Tooele County has long supported critical national missions and this opportunity could strengthen America’s energy security while bringing thousands of high-paying jobs and tens of billions of dollars in investment to Utah.”

”

Governor Spencer J. Cox

GOVERNOR’S ANNOUNCEMENT IN TOOEE COUNTY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Governor Cox's Operation Gigawatt is the cornerstone of Utah's energy planning. Utah runs the country's only conventional uranium mill, manages roughly 90 percent of America's low-level radioactive waste (LLW) and produces nuclear-grade materials used in fuel rods nationwide. Nine companies have signed formal Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) to build advanced reactors, fuel cycle facilities and develop nuclear workforce in the state.

Utah is actively competing against 26 other states for a federal opportunity to establish the safe, responsible development of a Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus (NLIC) in Tooele County. Designed as a single, fully integrated hub, the proposed Innovation Campus would centralize the entire nuclear fuel cycle, including uranium enrichment, fuel fabrication, used fuel recycling and safe long-term waste storage. Backed by local leaders, Tooele County offers an ideal location equipped with the necessary land, power lines and road and rail infrastructure to support a project of this scale.

“Utah’s nuclear
future is inseparable
from the nation’s
nuclear future.”

”

9

NUCLEAR
MOUs

90%

OF U.S. CLASS A
LLW MANAGED

#1

FISCAL STABILITY 2023-2025
U.S. NEWS

2027

TARGET:
INITIAL OPERATIONS





▲ Utah State flag

Utah is ready, willing and able to write the next chapter of American energy dominance.

The United States lacks a coordinated system for the full nuclear fuel cycle, from mining and enrichment through used fuel recycling and waste storage. The colocation of uranium enrichment, fuel fabrication, fuel reprocessing and recycling and waste treatment and management, designed to capture the efficiencies of co-located operations while maintaining robust security and environmental monitoring and controls. Utah's proposal is a campus where every step happens together, on state-owned land in the Tooele County desert.

The Innovation Campus would enrich uranium, fabricate fuel, run advanced test reactors and recycle used fuel to recover additional value-remaining energy, harvest medical isotopes and safely store what's left. Governor Cox, the Utah Legislature and Tooele County leadership have all formally committed, targeting initial operations in 2027.

Utah's Capitol City,
Salt Lake ▼

▲ Tooele County

Few areas in the U.S. offer the combination of land, climate, transportation and workforce required to support an Innovation Campus.

Utah has identified a roughly 300-square-mile corridor of state-controlled land in Tooele County. Interstate 80 cuts directly through the region, running alongside Union Pacific rail lines and high-voltage power lines. The area's arid, remote geology offers natural security benefits while remaining within commuting distance of a skilled workforce. This balance ensures the location stays isolated from major population centers while keeping essential infrastructure within easy reach.

Tooele County passed a formal resolution supporting the Innovation Campus in March 2026. The region hosts the country's largest commercial nuclear waste facility, giving residents decades of experience with industrial nuclear operations. Polling shows 70 percent of residents view nuclear energy favorably, and 88 percent support it for the economic benefits.

TOOELE COUNTY CORRIDOR

~195K

ACRES IN THE
PROPOSED CORRIDOR
(JUST OVER 300 MILES²)

~48 mi²

OF STATE TRUST LAND
AVAILABLE FOR THE CAMPUS

<10 mi²

BEHIND-FENCELINE
FOOTPRINT FOR ALL
CAMPUS OPERATIONS

70%

OF TOOELE COUNTY
RESIDENTS FAVORABLE
ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

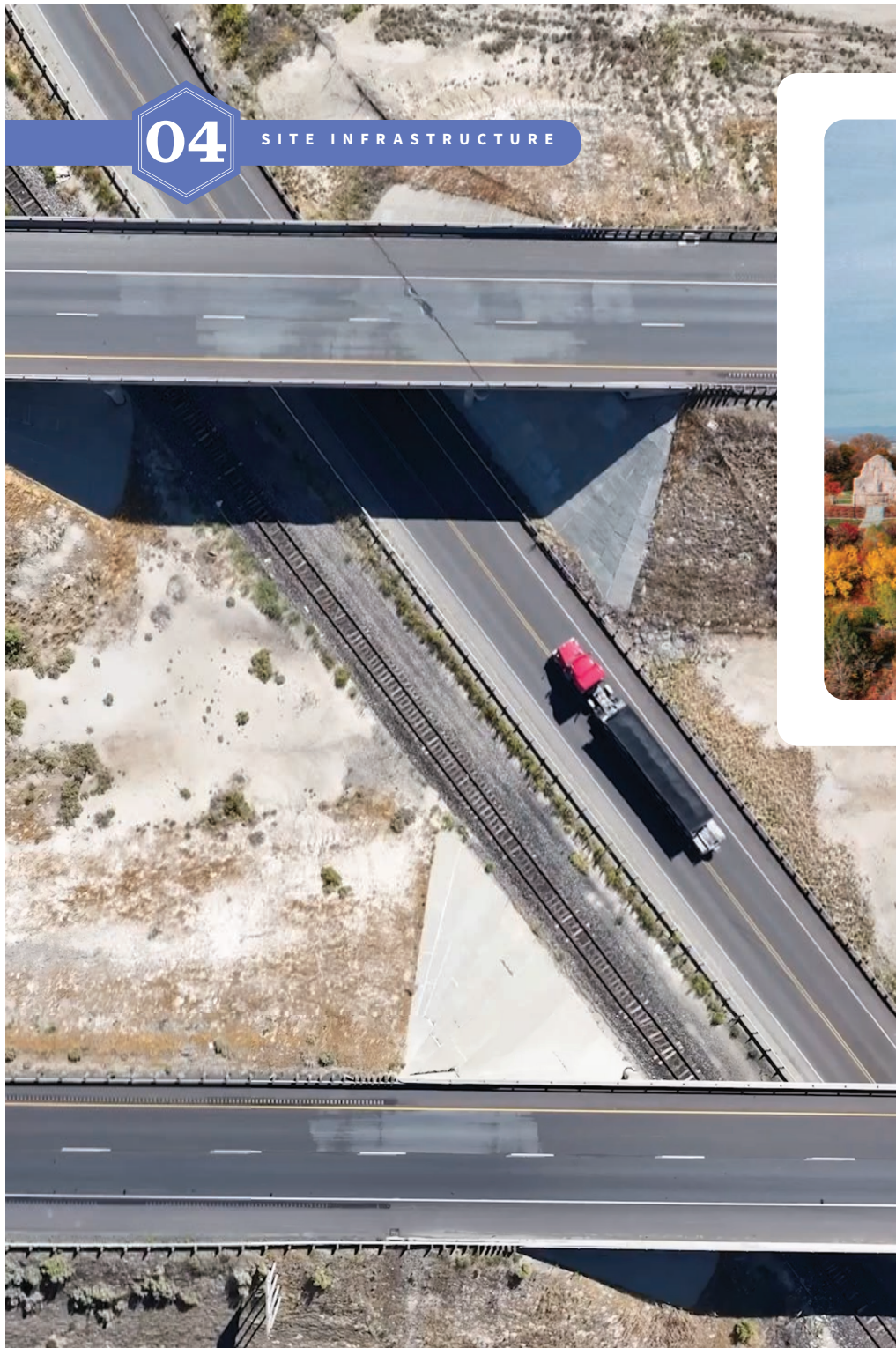
Industry willingness to commit capital, enter long-term contracts and share risk is foundational to the development of the Innovation Campus.

Utah will leverage its existing nuclear and industrial supply base to support the effort and has already begun engaging potential industry partners. The state has signed commitments with companies actively developing facilities in the state. In March 2026, the Utah Office of Energy Development (OED) issued a preliminary questionnaire to nuclear operators to assess interest and capabilities.

Once the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) selects Utah as host, the state will issue a competitive solicitation to identify qualified operators for each campus function. Utah's approach is technology-agnostic; the best technologies compete with private capital behind them. Performance-based tax credits and infrastructure cost reimbursements are designed to make that investment attractive.

NINE CURRENT MOUS

CURIO · ENERGYSOLUTIONS / INTERMOUNTAIN POWER AGENCY · HOLTEC / HTS ·
NUCLEA ENERGY · NUCUBE · OKLO · TERRAPOWER · VALAR ATOMICS ·
BATELLE / IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY



▲ Utah State Capitol building in autumn

Utah is the Crossroads of the West.

The Corridor sits at the intersection of Interstate 80 and Union Pacific's Class 1 heavy-haul rail line, with PacifiCorp's 345kV transmission corridors running through the region. Salt Lake City International Airport is an hour away. High-capacity fiber links the Corridor to the Wasatch Front and water planning is underway through local districts.

Utah and the DOE will upgrade these systems as Campus needs solidify: transmission expansion under Operation Gigawatt, rail assessments for material transportation and targeted water infrastructure investment. The state has a track record delivering major energy infrastructure in remote desert terrain.

◀ Road and rail infrastructure in Tooele County

Utah is among a small number of jurisdictions in the United States responsible for the direct regulation of commercial nuclear waste disposal.

Utah is a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Agreement State, with direct authority to regulate certain nuclear materials. The Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control (DWMRC) oversees the White Mesa uranium mill and the Clive LLW disposal facility, giving regulators hands-on experience with the type of activities the Innovation Campus will involve. Where federal agencies retain jurisdiction, Utah will coordinate closely.

The Legislature has passed laws to clear the path: House Bill 78 established a Nuclear Energy Regulatory Office, Senate Bill 135 authorized advanced nuclear fuel recycling and Executive Order 2025-01 streamlined permitting for critical infrastructure. These are not aspirational; they are on the books and in effect, targeting initial operations by 2027.



▲ Utah San Rafael Energy Lab



▲ Utah State Capitol building



▲ Tooele County

Utah is committed to modernizing its statutory framework to enable Innovation Campus development.

The state has enacted laws, created oversight bodies and authorized the fuel-cycle activities the Innovation Campus requires. The state has the legal context within which the Innovation Campus can develop safely and responsibly.



ENACTED LEGISLATION

HOUSE BILL 241 • 2024

Nuclear as Clean Energy

Rewrote state energy code to classify nuclear as clean energy, equal to renewables in long-term policy.

HOUSE BILL 249 • 2025

Nuclear Energy Consortium

Created the Nuclear Energy Consortium, the Advanced Nuclear and Energy Institute and an Energy Development Investment Fund.

SENATE BILL 135 • 2026

Fuel Recycling & Innovation Campus

Authorized nuclear fuel recycling and directed the Office of Energy Development to develop a full-lifecycle Innovation Campus.

HOUSE BILL 78 • 2026

Nuclear Energy Regulatory Office

Established the state nuclear regulatory office as the primary licensing and oversight body.

◀ Salt Lake City

Utah is positioned to execute.

2026

DOE Selects Utah

Utah activates site control, characterization and technology selection immediately.

2026-2027

Permitting & Infrastructure

State and federal permitting runs concurrently. Infrastructure and road upgrades begin.

2027+

Full Campus Deployment

Phased buildout continues. Lifecycle functions come online in phases.



2026

Site Confirmed & Agreements Signed

Final site selected. DOE agreement framework codified by Q4 2026.

2027

Initial Operations

First Innovation Campus functions come online. Workforce training programs fully active.



▲ Utah desert



▲ Construction team working



▲ Governor Cox visits USREL



▲ Utah State Capitol building at night

Public acceptance will be critical to the successful development of the Innovation Campus.

The Tooele County Council formally declared support for the Innovation Campus in March 2026. The county has hosted the nation's largest commercial low-level radioactive waste facility since 1988; its residents understand nuclear operations firsthand.

Utah OED launched a statewide Civil Nuclear Public Education and Community Outreach Campaign in 2025, before the NLIC was announced, hosting events in all 29 counties and tribal communities. The Campaign is in active dialogue with the public and community organizations about health, water and waste concerns. Recent Utah nuclear projects have generated broadly positive sentiment.

OED has met directly with Skull Valley Band leadership on economic opportunities for communities near the site. Formal channels for Tribal consultation remain ongoing.

88%

OF TOOEE COUNTY RESIDENTS
SURVEYED HAD A FAVORABLE
PERCEPTION OF THE ECONOMIC
BENEFITS NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES
BRING TO THEIR COMMUNITY.

70%

VIEWED NUCLEAR ENERGY AS
VALUABLE FOR UTAH TODAY
AND IN THE FUTURE.



▲ Tooele County City Hall

“If it doesn't make sense for Utah, we aren't going to do it. If it isn't safe for Utah, we aren't going to do it.”

Emy Lesofski,
*Energy Advisor to the Governor,
Director of Energy Development*

”



▲ Governor Cox presenting at the 2025 Utah Nuclear Energy Summit

Utah started engaging communities about nuclear energy before it was politically easy to do so.



▲ Governor Cox speaking to Jared Hamner, Tooele County Council Chair

COMMUNITY & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

All 29 counties.

As of March 2026, OED has met with all eight regional government associations, commissioners in 12 counties, 19 mayors and city councilors and seven economic development departments. A fall 2025 survey (n = 608, Millard/Tooele/Weber) found 64% of Tooele respondents agreed nuclear supports Utah's energy goals; 88% cited jobs and economic benefit.

Tooele County Council passed a Resolution of Support on March 24, 2026. Erda City, Grantsville and Tooele City mayors submitted formal letters of support.

TRIBAL NATIONS

Direct engagement on a complex history.

Utah acknowledges documented Tribal concerns, including health risks, ancestral lands and uranium milling operations. OED has met directly with Skull Valley Band of Goshute leadership on Campus economic opportunities.

A Tribal liaison leads ongoing government-to-government consultation.

DOE's Collaborative-Based Siting program co-hosted a 2025 San Juan County event on the region's uranium milling and radiation legacy.

NGOs, LEGISLATURE & PARTNERS

Named concerns, direct responses.

OED documented seven recurring concerns: seismic suitability, water consumption and uses, taxpayer cost, safety legacy (Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, Fukushima), regulatory uncertainty, government distrust and non-proliferation. Each is addressed directly with science-based materials hosted on the OED website, including fact sheets in English, Spanish and Tribal languages.

Senate Bill 135 and House Bill 78 passed in March 2026 with strong bipartisan support and minimal opposition.

Utah sees nuclear waste reception, reprocessing and storage as an economic opportunity.

The U.S. has no commercial spent fuel reprocessing facility and no permanent high-level waste repository. Utah can address both. The Tooele Corridor has sufficient State Trust Land for interim storage, reprocessing and long-term disposal.

Reprocessing recovers energy and valuable isotopes still locked in spent fuel. These processes create a direct pathway: storage → reprocessing → final disposal, with reduced volume and hazard. Companies like Curio and Nusano are advancing their reprocessing capabilities at USREL.

Preliminary Oak Ridge Siting Analysis for power Generation Expansion (OR-SAGE) modeling indicates that 25–50 percent of Tooele County land may suit deep borehole disposal. If deep geologic repositories are required, Utah will evaluate salt cavern options in Millard County, approximately 100 miles south.

80+%

REDUCTION IN WASTE VOLUME
THROUGH REPROCESSING
& RECYCLING

Millennia ↓ Centuries

REQUIRED ISOLATION
TIMEFRAME WITH
RECYCLING VS. WITHOUT

~25–50% of Tooele County land is geologically suitable for deep borehole disposal—the most of any county in Utah (OR-SAGE preliminary analysis).



◀ Train passing through Tooele County

Achieving readiness requires addressing regulatory, environmental and workforce realities.

REGULATORY

Yucca Mountain is still the law of the land.

Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA), interim storage of used nuclear fuel is contingent upon progress toward establishing a permanent repository, which is currently Yucca Mountain under federal law. Utah has enacted Senate Bill 135 and House Bill 78 as groundwork and the state is also prepared to address federal issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL

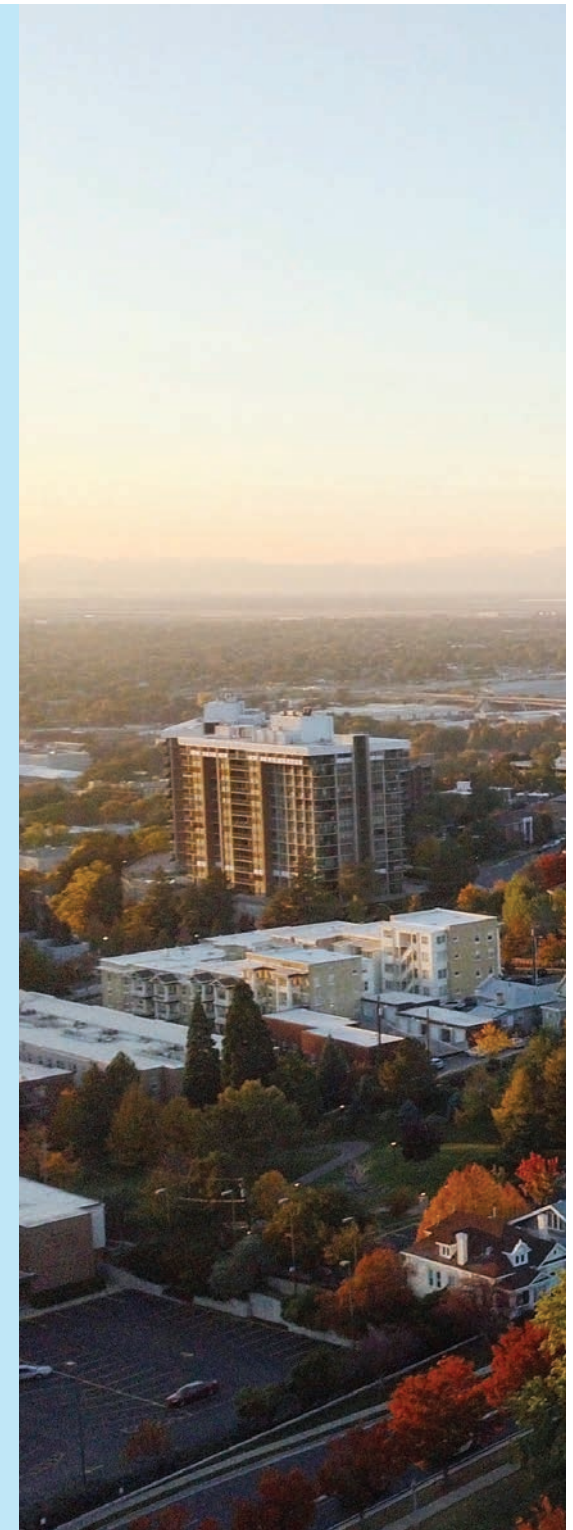
Water scarcity in the Tooele Corridor is a real operational constraint.

All known subsurface water in the Corridor is brackish and requires treatment. Fuel and power-cycle activities may require ~15,000 gallons per day for state law. Utah's mitigation: prioritize air-cooled and hybrid-cooled designs and develop a regional water supply plan serving the Innovation Campus, surrounding communities and benefiting the Great Salt Lake.

WORKFORCE

No commercial reactor means no operational precedent to build from.

Utah lacks NRC-licensed commercial reactor experience. Existing assets include the University of Utah's TRIGA (Training, Research, Isotopes, General Atomics) research reactor, NRC-licensed low-level radioactive waste operations at Clive and the Utah San Rafael Energy Lab. Utah is closing the gap through the Utah-Idaho National Laboratory (INL) partnership, the Hi Tech Solutions (HTS)/Holtec training facility Memorandum of Understanding (target: 2028) and actively working with local colleges and universities to build workforce pipelines.



*Utah State Capitol
building at dusk*



Utah is one of only two states that directly oversees a commercial LLW disposal facility.

WHAT UTAH ALREADY OPERATES

Utah regulates three NRC Agreement State programs: low-level radioactive waste disposal (Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Part 61), uranium recovery (Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act [UMTRCA] / 40 CFR Part 40) and radioactive materials at the White Mesa and Clive, e facilities.

WHAT UTAH WILL REQUIRE

Utah proposes a Joint Regulatory Framework with NRC and DOE modeled on information exchange, state observation of NRC inspections and attendance at pre-decisional regulatory meetings. Utah proposes to co-develop with federal partners as it relates to NRC licensed facilities, which affirms cooperative federalism to protect public health, safety and the environment and emphasizes full and timely disclosure to the public.



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▲ Governor Cox speaking at a ceremonial bill signed at Davis Technical College

“Managing the entire nuclear value chain in one location demands that environmental and safety controls are engineered into facility designs rather than applied retroactively.” ”

Utah already moves nuclear materials at scale. The Clive facility receives over 11,000 shipments of LLW per year.

Utah's rail network: 1,400 miles across 8 railroads. Union Pacific's Class 1 heavy-haul main line runs through the Tooele Corridor and serves Clive. Rated to 315,000 pounds, it may accommodate the DOE's Atlas rail-car for used nuclear fuel transport.

BNSF Railway, the Utah Inland Port Authority (UIPA) and Patriot Rail recently opened a Salt Lake City inter-modal facility, improving cargo flow to California's ports. Utah's road network adds 900+ miles of interstate, all high-load-designated for oversized cargo.

Transport complies with NRC controls (10 CFR Part 71), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) hazardous materials regulations (49 CFR) and DWMRC's Radioactive Material Transportation Program (Utah Code 19-3). The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), state emergency management and Utah Highway Patrol Hazardous Materials units are integrated into the response.

A dedicated rail spur to the Union Pacific main line would cut transition points, enable direct cask loading and limit public road exposure—Utah's preferred primary transport link.



▲ Utah railway

1,400

MILES

of freight rail across 8 railroads



▲ Interstate 80 in Tooele County

900+

MILES

of interstate highway



▲ The EnergySolutions facility in Clive

11K+

SHIPMENTS/YR

of LLW already received at Clive



▲ Savage Tooele Railroad groundbreaking ceremony

1

CLASS 1 RAIL

through the Tooele corridor

Utah recommends a multi-faceted agreement framework that codifies the State–DOE relationship and drives private investment.

Utah is open to State-owned, privately owned or federally owned structures depending on function, and will finalize the right model with DOE for each Innovation Campus element.

For the Innovation Campus itself, Utah proposes a State-owned industrial park model: the State retains land ownership and grants long-term ground leases to private operators.

For the permanent repository, Utah assumes federal ownership and operation with a State-controlled land lease. HLW and UNF ownership remains a federal responsibility under current regulation. Utah will engage DOE, NRC and federal parties on siting, construction and long-term oversight.



▲ Salt Lake Valley

STATE–DOE AGREEMENT

Modeled on WIPP’s Consultation & Cooperative Agreement

Outlines goals, roles, waste management, information sharing, transport coordination and community benefits—with greater State oversight than the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), given the use of State trust land.

CAMPUS OWNERSHIP

State industrial park model with private operator leases

State retains land ownership; private operators hold long-term ground leases (build-to-suit or master lease). Preserves private capital flexibility while maintaining State control over site access and land use.

REPOSITORY OWNERSHIP

Federal ownership assumed; State-controlled land lease

HLW and UNF ownership is a federal responsibility under current statute. Utah will facilitate site access through a land lease and engage DOE and NRC on all repository siting and oversight.



◀ Governor Cox speaking at the Western Governors' Association Summer Meeting 2025

Utah has active nuclear industry partnerships across 18 companies and institutions.

Organized by engagement status: companies operating in Utah, those with signed MOUs, and those with publicly stated initiatives.

OPERATING IN UTAH

EnergySolutions

Clive LLW Facility

Energy Fuels

White Mesa Uranium Mill

Westinghouse

Zirconium & Hafnium Facility

Nusano

Radioisotope Production

University of Utah

DOE Used Fuel Research Center

Brigham Young University

Advanced Reactor
Research & Development

MOU SIGNED

HTS / Holtec

Training Center & Small Modular
Reactor (SMR) Deployment

Nuclea Energy

Prototype Reactor at USREL

NuCube Energy

Micro Fission Reactor at USREL

TerraPower

Sodium[®] Reactor Siting

Valar Atomix

Tri-structural Isotropic (TRISO)
Fuel & Test Reactor, USREL

INL

Research & Development
& Workforce Partnership

IN DEVELOPMENT

Anfield Energy

Re-opening Velvet-Wood Mine

Blue Castle Holdings

Two-Unit Nuclear Power Plant

General Matter

Enrichment Facility

Curio

Three-Stage Recycling Pilot

Terrestrial Energy

Molten Salt Reactor
(EnergySolutions)

Natura Resources

Molten Salt Chemistry, USREL

▼ DEQ personnel
inspecting a facility



▼ Governor Cox speaks at INL signing of
Collaborative Research Agreement with Utah



▼ Delivery of a Valar Atomix Next-Generation
5MW SMR at Hill Air Force Base



Utah already handles more commercial nuclear waste than any other state.

Secondary waste consists of materials from routine operations, maintenance, decontamination and laboratory activities. Each waste stream is classified under NRC categories, characterized and securely contained and packaged prior to transport.

Clive provides a scalable Class A LLW disposal pathway, already under DWMRC oversight. Utah has operational experience overseeing facilities that manage radioactive materials and associated waste streams. This includes regulation of the Clive facility and the White Mesa Mill.

For waste outside DWMRC's Agreement State authority, Utah will coordinate with NRC and DOE.

GENERATION & CLASSIFICATION

All streams characterized and classified per NRC categories (Class A, B, C, Greater Than Class C [GTCC]). Radiological monitoring required before any movement.

PACKAGING & TRANSPORT

Engineered containment and certified transport packages. Compliance with 10 CFR Part 71 and DOT 49 CFR. DWMRC inspection authority under Utah Code 19-3.

LICENSED DISPOSAL

Class A LLW → Clive (11,000+ shipments per year). Federal waste → Federal Cell at Clive (in licensing). Higher classifications coordinated with NRC/DOE.

Utah does not seek ownership of specific nuclear technologies.

Utah views federal engagement as a strategic priority, not a secondary consideration.

FUEL CYCLE DATA & FRAMEWORKS

Technical research and licensing frameworks for reactor systems, fuel cycle technologies, and safeguards.

Source: INL, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and private partners with relevant research or licensing experience.

REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY

Utah proposes technologies identified as most viable by DOE and its Used Fuel Center at INL.

DOE must provide direction on national fuel recycling strategy, including long-term technology selection.

SAFEGUARDS & NON-PROLIFERATION

Additional requirements may include safeguards specifications for nuclear material control.

As an NRC Agreement State, Utah can coordinate with NRC and DOE on criticality and proliferation safety.

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

Idaho National Laboratory (INL)

Formal MOU · SUPER research agreements with University of Utah and BYU

Brigham Young University in Autumn





Utah is elevating its global positioning to a proactive hub for nuclear innovation.

Utah's logistics infrastructure and trade relationships position the state to export nuclear fuels, components and technologies. It also supports time-sensitive materials like medical radioisotopes, which can need same-day or overnight air transport

Utah is aware of the multifaceted regulatory regimes involved in the international export of nuclear material and equipment, including NRC export licensing under 10 CFR Part 110, DOE/NNSA Part 810 authorizations for transfers of certain unclassified nuclear technology and assistance to foreign atomic energy activities, the roles of the U.S. Department of State (DOS) in evaluating non-proliferation implications, DoW in assessing national security risks, and the U.S. Department of Commerce's (DOC) Export Administration Regulations along with other safeguards/non-proliferation obligations aligned with the IAEA framework. Utah recognizes its limited regulatory authority regarding international exports but is dedicated to supporting industry in meeting export requirements where we can.



▲ Governor Cox meeting with
Australian Consul-General Bennett

Governor Cox, leading a 2024
trade mission to South Korea ▼



TRADE MISSIONS

Global Nuclear Leaders

Trade missions to three nuclear-leading nations (United Kingdom, Canada and South Korea) have opened export pathways and a 2025 Critical Mineral agreement with Australia will boost supply chains.

PORT ACCESS

Port of Oakland & Port of Long Beach

UIPA logistics agreements enable efficient movement to California's port complex, North America's largest and primary trans-Pacific gateway.

EXPORT COMPLIANCE

NRC Part 110 / DOE-NNSA Part 810 / IAEA

Utah recognizes its limited export authority, but supports compliance with U.S. federal, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and IAEA regulations across all State MOUs and cooperative agreements.

Emy Lesofski, Director of OED and Energy Advisor to the Governor, speaks at the HiTech Brigham City Nuclear Campus Announcement, November 2025 ▶

Utah sees constraints as fully solvable and is actively executing solutions.

Interstate Stakeholder Constraints

A full lifecycle Innovation Campus requires coordination across states and federal agencies: transportation routing, materials handling, waste disposal compacts and regional market access. Utah has done this for decades through the Northwest Interstate Compact (NWIC) and DOE partnerships at Clive.

HOW UTAH IS ADDRESSING IT

Utah's relationships with Union Pacific, BNSF and California port authorities, plus NWIC membership, give the state established channels for interstate logistics at campus scale.

Community Knowledge Constraints

Public understanding of nuclear energy remains uneven. Misunderstandings delay permitting and erode community confidence. Utah's 2025 pilot survey found one-third of Tooele respondents answered "Don't Know" on waste oversight and spent fuel handling.

HOW UTAH IS ADDRESSING IT

Utah launched a year-long statewide nuclear education campaign in 2025 across all 29 counties, with materials in English, Spanish and Tribal languages. It addresses specific documented concerns, not generic ones.



Four things to know about how the Campus will be built, financed and sequenced.

PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

Early alignment between Utah, DOE and the NRC.

Utah will ensure that its multi-function Innovation Campus operates under clear governance structure that defines regulatory responsibilities, land ownership models and oversight coordination across federal and state agencies.

PHASED DEVELOPMENT

The Campus will be built in stages.

Interim storage and staging of used nuclear fuel can open first while longer-lead facilities, like enrichment, fuel fabrication, recycling, are licensed and built. Phased construction reduces risk, manages cost and lets the community provide input and grow familiar with each function before the next.

PRIVATE INVESTMENT

Operators must fund cleanup before starting operations.

The State will work with DOE and private partners to identify financial assurance mechanisms that satisfy both NRC and DEQ requirements while accommodating the project finance structures that private capital will demand. Utah will structure these requirements to protect the public while attracting needed private capital.

BUILD ORDER MATTERS

The Campus will grow in the order technology and licensing allow.

Advanced nuclear technologies vary in commercial readiness—some can be licensed today, others need more development time. Utah recommends sequencing construction to allow infrastructure planning to adapt as technologies mature, regulatory requirements evolve and commercial deployment strategies are finalized enabling efficient development.



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▲ City Creek Mall

5 – 10K

PERMANENT JOBS

Estimated once fully operational

Utah's construction industry employs 140,000+ workers statewide. Adjacent Wasatch Front counties like Cache, Davis, Salt Lake, Weber add 80,000+ more. The Campus-build creates a first wave of construction jobs, then permanent high-paying nuclear operations roles.

Utah is building the talent pipeline now. The University of Utah's TRIGA reactor is being paired with an INL digital twin for operator training. HTS/ Holtec is establishing a permanent in-state nuclear training center. House Bill 249 created the Electrical Energy Development Investment Fund, naming workforce programs a priority.

ILLUSTRATIVE PERMANENT WORKFORCE BY FUNCTION

Spent Fuel Reprocessing	1,000 – 5,000
Waste Storage	~1,000
Fuel Fabrication	500 – 1,000
Enrichment	500 – 600
Uranium Conversion	200 – 400
Advanced Reactors	100 – 300 per unit
Uranium Mining & Milling	40 – 150 per site



▲ Transmission lines in Utah

Success hinges on private investment. Utah conditions state contribution on verified performance.

PRIVATE CAPITAL & STATE INCENTIVES

The private sector will be the primary source of capital and retain primary responsibility for delivery and performance. Private entities will fund capital costs through equity, project debt and contracted revenue. DOE cost-sharing reduces first-of-a-kind risk but does not replace private capitalization.

State incentives are tied to milestones: licensing progress, financial close, construction start, commercial operation (with claw-back provisions for non-performance,) caps on long-term public exposure and reporting for transparency.

DECOMMISSIONING & STATE CONDITIONS

The state will require that end-of-life obligations be planned and funded from the beginning of the project lifecycle. Operators must maintain funded decommissioning, closure and waste-management assurances throughout the Campus lifespan. Utah will require periodic reporting and audit rights to verify funds remain adequate.

Any state or local contributions will be selective, capped and tied to enabling infrastructure. Utah will not assume private liabilities.

AAA

CREDIT RATING

Utah has highest possible bond rating. Lowers borrowing costs for Campus infrastructure.

#1

FISCAL HEALTH

Ranked most fiscally stable state in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.

4.5%

FLAT INCOME TAX

Flat rate applied to corporate and individual income—among the most competitive structures in the U.S.

Campus participants will assume financial responsibility for long-term obligations and sustainability.

Utah emphasizes durable, transparent mechanisms: predictable over decades, scaled to activity and risk and designed to keep long-term liabilities away from state taxpayers and the federal government.

USER FEES

Tenants pay for shared Campus obligations.

Each operator will pay into a shared fund for ongoing site-wide obligations: environmental monitoring, emergency management coordination, public reporting and administrative oversight.

Fees scale with the scale and risk of each operation; a reactor operator contributes more than a warehouse tenant. Fund revenues are restricted to specified uses and cannot be redirected to general state budgets.

HOST COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

Local communities receive a share of the benefits.

Utah will require host community benefit agreements modeled on royalty frameworks already used by nuclear operators in Tooele County. These fund local infrastructure upgrades, emergency response training, community health programs and workforce pipelines.

Payments are tied to operational milestones such as construction start, fuel load and commercial operation, and enforceable over the Innovation Campus's full life.

LAND LEASE & DECOMMISSIONING FUNDS

Land revenue funds stewardship. Operators fund cleanup.

Where the Innovation Campus uses State Trust Land, lease revenues provide a durable funding stream for long-term stewardship, independent of any single operator.

Operators must fund their own decommissioning from day one through dedicated, segregated, externally managed trust funds, sized to facility-specific estimates and updated every 2–3 years. Utah will not backstop closure obligations.

▼ Potash evaporation ponds and plant looking north from Little Mountain



▼ Governor Cox leading a 2023 trade mission to Canada



▼ Utah's skilled workforce will support the Innovation Campus



