

Nuclear Waste Study State Survey Highlights

GfK conducted a national study in June from an online KnowledgePanel® Omnibus Survey which included augments across twenty-three individual states about permanent options to dispose of the existing nuclear waste currently stored above ground at the reactor site.

Summary Findings

The vast majority of Americans agree their state should make it a priority to find a solution for nuclear waste disposal. As part of that solution, Americans are adamantly averse to transporting waste long distances above ground. Most favor permanent underground disposal as a solution.

National Results

- Most Americans (89%) agree finding a permanent solution for the nuclear waste currently stored above ground in their state should be a priority. Nearly half of those (49%) **strongly** agree this should be a priority.
- When posed with three possible solutions, the overwhelming favorite is to dispose of the waste **deep underground** without moving it long distances. More than eight in 10 (79%) agree their state should do this.
- In addressing this problem, there is major opposition to any attempts to transport nuclear waste across country. By a more than five-to-one margin the public thinks it is a **bad idea**: 82% say this, compared with only 16% who it's a good idea.
- In fact, less than one in five (19%) agree that their state should move its nuclear waste long distances to a temporary storage site and then move it once a permanent underground solution becomes available. Nearly eight in 10 (78%) disagree.
- Similarly, only one third agree that waste should be put into storage outside of their state even if it means long-distance transport. A majority – 64% – disagrees.
- The conundrum: What should states do with their nuclear waste right now? Only one third agree that waste should be kept where it is now – above ground in temporary containers. Nearly double – 64% – **disagree** with storing nuclear waste above ground.
- When asked about power plants in particular, the public is slightly more amenable to keeping waste where it is. By 53% to 44%, Americans agree that leaving the waste above ground **at each power plant** while waiting for a permanent solution to remove it is a good option.

National Survey with Results

Nuclear power plants produce nuclear waste. The US Government is responsible for taking care of this nuclear waste. Most experts believe that the waste should be disposed of in what is called deep geological isolation. This means that it is placed deep underground, so it won't pose a risk to our planet.

Right now, all the nuclear waste in the US is stored above ground at the reactor site where it was created.

This solution is safe and secure, but it's intended to be temporary. The government's proposed solution to put the waste at Nevada's Yucca Mountain has been long delayed, mainly for political reasons. Even if the political and legal hurdles are cleared immediately, it will be decades before waste can be taken there.

Q1: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Finding a permanent solution for the nuclear waste currently stored above ground in our state should be a priority.

Agree strongly/somewhat	89%
Disagree strongly/somewhat	10%
Don't know/no answer	1%

Another idea is to put the waste at one or two large temporary storage sites above ground. This will mean transporting nuclear waste long distances, and potentially doing it twice – first from power plants to the new temporary facility and then again to the permanent facility.

Q2: Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea to transport nuclear waste across the country?

Good idea	16%
Bad idea	82%
Don't know/no answer	2%

Q3: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Nuclear waste should be put into permanent disposal below ground.

Agree strongly/somewhat	79%
Disagree strongly/somewhat	19%
Don't know/no answer	2%

Nuclear waste should be kept where it is now, above ground in temporary containers.

Agree strongly/somewhat	33%
Disagree strongly/somewhat	64%
Don't know/no answer	3%

Nuclear waste should be put into storage outside of our state, even if that means transporting it long distances.

Agree strongly/somewhat	33%
Disagree strongly/somewhat	64%
Don't know/no answer	3%

A group of recognized scientists and environmentalists has developed a new proposal to dispose of nuclear waste permanently – and to do this within the next decade.

Nuclear waste currently stored above ground at each reactor site, will be placed very deep underground near its current location. There will be no need for extensive cross-country transportation.

A company has been formed by the scientists to do this. The company will have to meet the strict environmental, regulatory and safety requirements of the federal government, as well as get permission from both the state government and the local community. Waste will only be put underground at sites that opt-in for this solution.

Q4: Here are some statements people have made about this new proposal for the disposal of nuclear waste deep underground, near where it is currently located. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each. (Statements below were given in random order.)

Our state should consider the new option to safely dispose of the waste deep underground without having to move it long distances.

Agree strongly/somewhat	82%
Disagree strongly/somewhat	16%
Don't know/no answer	2%

Our state should leave the waste above ground at each power plant and wait for a permanent solution to remove it.

Agree strongly/somewhat	53%
Disagree strongly/somewhat	44%
Don't know/no answer	3%

Our state should move the waste long distances to another temporary storage site, and then move it again when an out-of-state underground solution becomes available.

Agree strongly/somewhat	19%
Disagree strongly/somewhat	78%
Don't know/no answer	3%

For the full survey, please email marketing@deepisolation.com.