



# Nuclear Waste & Power

## *Additional information*

### **Would nuclear waste be gone if we got rid of nuclear reactors?**

- Other industries, such as medicine and mining, also produce nuclear waste but in much smaller amounts than from a nuclear reactor.

### **Does nuclear waste last forever?**

- No. Nuclear waste becomes less radioactive over time. Most waste loses its ability to be hazardous to people within a few decades, and all waste will lose radioactivity completely in one- to ten-thousand years.

### **Is all waste “high level” or “low level”?**

- Not necessarily. “Mixed waste” is when low-level waste also contains some more hazardous components. The disposal of mixed waste is regulated by both the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Meeting these requirements can be complicated, so fewer facilities are mixed waste.

## SOURCES

“Low-Activity Radioactive Wastes.” United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2019, Web. Accessed on 26 Oct 2019. <https://www.epa.gov/radiation/low-activity-radioactive-wastes>

“Radioactive Waste - Myths and Realities.” World Nuclear Association, 2019, Web. Accessed on 26 Oct 2019. <https://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/nuclear-fuel-cycle/nuclear-wastes/radioactive-wastes-myths-and-realities.aspx>



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