

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 1859

To terminate the Department of Energy's program to promote the use of liquid metal reactors for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 22, 1994

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. BUMPERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To terminate the Department of Energy's program to promote the use of liquid metal reactors for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Breeder Reactor Ter-
5 mination Act of 1994".

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) the advanced reactor program of the De-
9 partment of Energy promotes the use of liquid metal

1 reactors for the disposal of high-level radioactive
2 waste through a process referred to as “actinide re-
3 cycle” and for other purposes;

4 (2) independent scientific experts believe that
5 liquid metal reactors would greatly increase the cost
6 of radioactive waste disposal and would not provide
7 significant environmental benefits;

8 (3) liquid metal reactors are not necessary to
9 preserve the nuclear power option, which will instead
10 depend upon the success of advanced light water
11 reactors;

12 (4) arms control experts believe that liquid
13 metal reactors raise grave nuclear proliferation con-
14 cerns because of the potential for production of plu-
15 tonium through breeding and reprocessing; and

16 (5) the need to reduce the Federal budget defi-
17 cit demands that budget priorities be established
18 carefully in order to eliminate unnecessary spending.

19 **SEC. 3. TERMINATION OF ADVANCED LIQUID METAL REAC-**
20 **TOR PROGRAM.**

21 (a) TERMINATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provi-
23 sions of sections 2121 through 2126 of the Energy
24 Policy Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 3081; 42 U.S.C.
25 13491 et seq.), the Secretary of Energy shall take

1 such actions as are necessary to terminate, as soon
2 as possible, the advanced liquid metal reactor pro-
3 gram of the Department of Energy, including the
4 program's promotion of the use of liquid metal reac-
5 tors for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste.

6 (2) REGULATORY SUPPORT.—Termination
7 under paragraph (1) shall include termination of De-
8 partment of Energy support for regulatory applica-
9 tions to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for de-
10 sign certification for advanced liquid metal reactors
11 or related licensed facilities.

12 (b) REASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL.—In carrying
13 out subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy shall, to the
14 extent practicable, reassign the personnel of the Depart-
15 ment who would be displaced by termination of the ad-
16 vanced liquid metal reactor program to other activities of
17 the Department, such as nuclear nonproliferation and
18 environmental cleanup at facilities of the Department of
19 Energy.

20 (c) USE OF SAVINGS TO REDUCE DEFICIT.—It is the
21 policy of the Congress that the savings realized from the
22 termination of the advanced liquid metal reactor program
23 should be used to reduce the Federal budget deficit.

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