



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

August 29, 2018

**H.R. 2389**  
**A bill to reauthorize the West Valley Demonstration Project, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
on July 12, 2018*

**SUMMARY**

The Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for remediating sites contaminated with radioactive waste and other environmental hazards stemming from federal activities related to the production of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy research. H.R. 2389 would authorize appropriations for ongoing cleanup activities at the West Valley Demonstration Project, a nuclear waste remediation site in New York. The bill also would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report to the Congress on options for disposing of the site's radioactive waste.

Assuming appropriation of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2389 would cost \$345 million over the 2019-2023 period.

Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2389 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

H.R. 2389 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 2389 is shown in the following table. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 270 (energy).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						2019- 2023
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
<b>INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>							
Authorization Level	0	75	75	75	75	75	375
Estimated Outlays	0	49	71	75	75	75	345

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 2389 will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2019.

Under current law and the terms of an agreement with the state of New York, DOE is responsible for paying 90 percent of the costs to dispose of radioactive waste, decontaminate facilities, and remove nonessential structures from the site of the West Valley Demonstration Project. H.R. 2389 would authorize the appropriation of \$75 million annually over the 2019-2028 period for those purposes. (In 2018, funding for cleanup activities at that site totals \$75 million.) Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2389 would cost \$345 million over the 2019-2023 period (and \$405 million after 2023). Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for DOE’s environmental management programs.

CBO estimates that requiring GAO to prepare a report on options for disposing of the site’s radioactive waste would not significantly affect that agency’s costs, which are subject to appropriation.

**PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS:** None.

## **INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS**

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2389 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

## **MANDATES**

H.R. 2389 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

## **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY**

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