

# **FAV - MDEM - SB536 - MDE NPP Emergency Preparednes**

Uploaded by: Anna Sierra

Position: FAV



Wes Moore | Governor  
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor  
Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

**FAVORABLE - SB536**

**Environment - Nuclear Power Plants - Emergency Preparedness  
(Radiation and Emergency Preparedness and Protection Act)**

Maryland Department of Emergency Management  
Hearing Date: 5 MAR 2024

Chair Brian Feldman  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Feldman,

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes **in support of SB536 - Environment - Nuclear Power Plants - Emergency Preparedness (Radiation and Emergency Preparedness and Protection Act)**. The bill codifies the radiation emergency response program under the Department of the Environment and outlines a fee requirement for nuclear power plant operators. A portion of this fee will go to MDEM to offset costs incurred conducting preparedness activities related to nuclear power plant accident or incident response and recovery.

MDEM is the coordinating agency for all hazards facing the State. We work closely with the Department of Environment (MDE) to establish and maintain the nuclear power plant preparedness program. We are the conduit between State government and the federal Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program (REPP) within the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

As a State with nuclear power plants, we are required by FEMA to plan, organize and execute a number of trainings and exercises for State and local governments; maintain emergency response plans; support local jurisdictions in developing and maintaining their own emergency response plans; and attend various REPP meetings and trainings throughout the year. The hazards faced by nuclear power plants are unique and require dedicated preparedness efforts. The fee assessed will ensure continued funding of these critical preparedness programs at both MDE and MDEM.



Wes Moore | Governor  
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor  
Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

**In conclusion, MDEM urges a favorable report of SB536 - Environment - Nuclear Power Plants - Emergency Preparedness (Radiation and Emergency Preparedness and Protection Act).**

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison:  
[anna.sierra1@maryland.gov](mailto:anna.sierra1@maryland.gov).

**SB0536 (HB0680) - FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Landon Fahrig

Position: FAV



# Maryland Energy Administration

**TO:** Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**FROM:** MEA

**SUBJECT:** SB 536 - Environment - Nuclear Power Plants - Emergency Preparedness (Radiation and Emergency Preparedness and Protection Act)

**DATE:** March 5, 2024

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## **MEA Position: FAVORABLE**

This bill would largely codify existing practices to support the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE's) Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM).

Nuclear reactors and power plants have complex safety and security features. An uncontrolled reaction in a nuclear reactor could result in widespread contamination of air and water. The risk of this happening at nuclear power plants in the United States is small because of the diverse and redundant barriers and safety systems in place at nuclear power plants; the training and skills of the reactor operators; testing and maintenance activities; and the regulatory requirements and oversight of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

MDE and MDEM currently train staff, prepare response plans, participate in emergency response drills, and undertake other relevant activities to ensure the State is adequately prepared to respond to accidents at facilities that use nuclear fuel to generate electricity. Also, portions of time for nearly two dozen staff within the Department's Radiological Health Program are spent on ongoing refresher training throughout any year to be able to provide adequate coverage across all job stations during a one-day preparedness exercise or an actual event that may last multiple days involving round-the-clock coverage.

MDE and MDEM have received funds from fixed nuclear power owners in past years to support the activities described above. These payments were not driven by State regulatory or statutory requirements, but were made through an MOU agreement between the owner and MDE to fulfill the owner's obligations under the NRC and Atomic Energy Act.

Therefore, the Maryland Energy Administration urges the committee to codify these provisions in statute, and to issue a **favorable report**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Landon Fahrig, Legislative Liaison, directly ([landon.fahrig@maryland.gov](mailto:landon.fahrig@maryland.gov), 410.931.1537).

**SB 536 MDE SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Les Knapp

Position: FAV



**The Maryland Department of the Environment  
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***Senate Bill 536***

***Environment-Nuclear Power Plants-Emergency Preparedness (Radiation and  
Emergency Preparedness and Protection Act)***

**Position:** Support

**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Date:** March 5, 2023

**From:** Jeremy D. Baker

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 536.

**Bill Summary**

Senate Bill 536 would codify a current payment practice and add a Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment factor to support MDE's Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM). The payments would be made by owners of fixed nuclear power plants located in Maryland and in neighboring states where a facility's emergency planning zone falls within Maryland. Currently, payments are made through a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The fee would provide MDE with \$600,000 and MDEM with \$120,000 in revenue beginning in fiscal year 2025.

**Position Rationale:**

As part of protecting and maintaining public welfare, the State needs to ensure that it is equipped and prepared to respond to any incident related to a nuclear generation facility. MDE has received payments from fixed nuclear power owners in past years to support these activities. Those payments were not driven by State regulatory or statutory requirements, but were made through an MOU agreement between the owner and MDE to fulfill the owner's obligations under the Nuclear Regulatory Commission/Atomic Energy Act. The most recent agreement expired in May of 2023, which is expected to cover costs through FY24. Codifying the payment practice provides a stable and permanent funding source for this vital public safety service.

MDE currently trains staff, prepares response plans, participates in emergency response drills, and undertakes other relevant activities to ensure the State is adequately prepared to respond to

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**Contact:** Les Knapp, Government Relations Director  
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incidents at facilities that use nuclear technology to generate electricity. MDE has a Director and two permanent staff within the Office of Emergency Response and Preparedness.

Approximately two dozen staff within MDE's Radiological Health Program dedicate time to ongoing refresher training throughout the year to be able to provide adequate coverage across all job stations during a one-day preparedness exercise or an actual event that may last multiple days involving round-the-clock coverage.

Additionally, there are equipment and other ancillary costs associated with nuclear emergency response and preparedness. Collectively, MDE's costs to support the stated activities vary yearly, depending primarily on how many response drills are scheduled, the number of filled positions in the Radiological Health Program at any given time, and the need to purchase equipment or perform maintenance.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 536.

# 2024JacksonTestimonySB536.pdf

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV

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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
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***TESTIMONY – SENATE BILL 536***

***ENVIRONMENT – NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS – EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS (RADIATION AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS AND PROTECTION ACT)***

***EDUCATION, ENERGY, & THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE***

***MARCH 5, 2024***

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 536 is a very straightforward attempt to protect Maryland citizens and to better ingrain our nuclear emergency management preparedness apparatus into code.

Under this bill, we'd simply formalize some existing practices and firmly establish the roles of both MDE (the Maryland Department of the Environment) and MDEM (the Maryland Department of Emergency Management) in responding to any type of nuclear power-related or radiation exposure incident. Coincidentally, the bill establishes the Radiation Emergency Response Program within the Maryland Department of Environment and puts in place corresponding fees for nuclear power plant owners for each plant that they own.

Through consultation with the Maryland Department of Environment, The Maryland Department of Emergency Management, and Constellation Energy (the only Maryland-based Power Plant operator that would be impacted by the implementation costs of these statutory changes). I believe this bill to be to a very reasonable and effective means of improving our overall emergency preparedness infrastructure in the unlikely event of any sort of nuclear power-related incident.

**For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 536.**