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Radioactive cleanup may cost \$350 billion

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The cleanup of radioactive waste left over from decades of nuclear weapons production will take longer than the Cold War itself and cost between \$230 billion and \$350 billion, the government estimated Monday.

The largest environmental cleanup ever undertaken still is expected to leave hundreds of acres contaminated with buried debris and cordoned off from the public.

The staggering cost estimate announced Monday by the Energy Department envisions a middle-of-the road approach to cleaning up the legacy from nuclear research, production and testing during the decades of the Cold War.

The Energy Department review, which was sent to Congress, estimates the decontamination of more than 80 facilities in 30 states could take about 40 years.