

The following State agencies shall assist the Secretary in evaluating any technology or means for the permanent disposal of low-level nuclear waste:

- (1) The State Department of Agriculture.
- (2) The Department of Economic and Employment Development.
- (3) The Department of Natural Resources.
- [(4) The Department of State Planning.
- (5)] (4) The State Department of Transportation.
- (5) THE OFFICE OF PLANNING.

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(c) (1) The Secretary, with the approval of the Board of Public Works, shall adopt rules and regulations that establish application procedures and criteria for the award of financial assistance under this subtitle. The criteria shall provide the basis for project priority rankings and shall include, as appropriate:

- (i) The water quality or public health impacts caused by existing circumstances;
- (ii) Previous efforts expended to correct any existing problem;
- (iii) Financial capacity of the applicant;
- (iv) The problem prevention aspects of a proposed project;
- (v) Cost effectiveness of a proposed project;
- (vi) Planning requirements;
- (vii) Provisions for monitoring and review; and
- (viii) Measures to assure accountability for all funds awarded under this subtitle.

(2) Project priority systems shall be established. Prior to adopting rules and regulations and establishing project priority rankings under this section, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretaries of [State Planning,] Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Economic and Employment Development AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PLANNING.