

Support AJR10

Expresses Opposition to the Development of a Nuclear Waste Dump at Yucca Mountain

Hearing: Monday, March 20, 2017 - 4:00 PM

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, 401 S. Carson St.,
Carson City, NV.

Videoconferenced to Room 4406 of the Grant Sawyer
State Office Building, 555 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas,
NV.

Link to Committee: [https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/
REL/79th2017/Committee/184/Overview](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017/Committee/184/Overview)

committee email address: AsmCL@asm.state.nv.us

Possible Actions

- **Attend the hearing and support the resolution**
- **Use the link to the committee to send your support of the resolution**

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And here is how/why the thinking of others:

Colleagues: Two interesting pieces on Yucca posted today.

Randi Thompson writes in her TNI opinion piece that the old concept of storing nuclear spent fuel at Yucca has long been superceded by modern technology, which posits short term storage and quick conversion of the "waste" to energy. An agreement on this would bring Nevada at least \$1.4 billion a year!

And a brief email by a Republican stalwart sent to SEN Heller countering his opposition to Yucca.

Ty Cobb

TNI OPINION

It's time to rethink Yucca

BY GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

MARCH 17TH, 2017 - 3:00AM

By Randi Thompson

A nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain should be dead. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act, created in 1982, said at the time that long-term storage of nuclear spent fuel was the only option. But technological advancements in nuclear spent fuel research shows that putting this product in the ground is an outdated idea.

UNR, UNLV, Department of Energy national labs, General Electric, and many other companies and universities have for years been researching ways to reprocess spent fuel, and even how to turn it into a power source. That is what Nevada's leaders should be considering; that is what they should be negotiating.

Yucca Mountain could be the premier nuclear energy research site in the country. Our state could lead the nation in developing ways to reuse spent fuel as a fuel source. And really, where better to locate such an energy park than at Yucca Mountain and the former Nuclear Test Site, a place that continues to lead the nation in nuclear exploration?

We as a nation have to address the growing stockpiles of nuclear spent fuel, and Nevada's leaders should be working with Congress and the federal government to change the concept of a waste repository into a nuclear energy research park. In return for helping address the national problem of relocating the nuclear spent fuel that is being stored all around the country, we should negotiate a deal that ensures Nevada gains financially for our

willingness to help.

Nevada has an opportunity to create a world-class research center that can chart the course for nuclear energy production for the next century. Using the completed Yucca Mountain facility (yes, it was completed before it was shuttered), this center can lead the nation in developing technologies to generate power by reprocessing spent fuel as well as advance renewable energies. The "Nevada Energy Park" could develop new industries, generate new sources of clean energy, create thousands of high-paying jobs, and generate funds for the state budget.

Such an energy park has broad support in our state. In 2012, a statewide poll related to Yucca Mountain showed that 62 percent of Nevadans support the creation of a nuclear research park for the study of reprocessing of nuclear spent fuel at Yucca Mountain. The survey was conducted by reputable pollster Glen Bolger of Public Opinion Strategies and polled 500 likely voters.

The poll showed that 75 percent of rural residents (primarily in the southern part of the state and in Nye County where Yucca is located) supported opening the site. In Clark County, 100 miles away, 61 percent of Clark County residents supported it, while 60 percent of residents in Washoe County were in support.

Instead of fighting the federal government, we should work with them to update the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, toss out the idea of repository, and instead create a nuclear energy research center.

Randi Thompson worked for the Department of Energy under the Reagan and Bush administration. She is now a government relations consultant in Reno.

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Letter sent to Senator Dean Heller by Linda Hoffman:

We Republicans are ashamed of you for your Harry Reid position about Yucca Mountain. The safety of the storage facility has been proven through the \$14B spent on site characterization and the license submittal to the NRC. What you and Gov Sandoval are doing is spending our tax dollars through our Democratic legislature to stop the project. Payment for this project comes from the fund set up by utility customers to cover this storage, not from the taxpayers.

You are depriving Nevada of income and employment by opposing this project. The majority of your Republican voters favor this endeavor and the benefits it will have for the state. Many of us are considering the future of a Nuclear R&D facility outside of the storage tunnel to enhance peaceful use of nuclear energy. Such a facility could use the stored material for advanced nuclear plants through reprocessing and recycling of the spent nuclear fuel to be used for more safe and economic clean energy. Such a R&D facility could employ 7000-12000 at the site. This would add to the Las Vegas economy and bring \$1.4B to \$2.4B to the Nevada economy. We can't understand why you don't want this to happen.

Myself, other members of the Republican Central Committee, and Republicans around the state cannot support your position and won't support you in the future if you continue your unfounded objections to the Yucca Mountain project.

Linda Hoffman