

RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING ITS OPPOSITION TO THE SITING OF A NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORY AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN AND ITS OPPOSITION TO ANY NEGOTIATION OF ANY BENEFITS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SITING OF A NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORY

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 established a process and time schedule for the establishment of the nation's first geologic repository for the permanent disposal of spent commercial nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste; and

WHEREAS, on December 22, 1987, the Congress of the United States amended the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, identifying Yucca Mountain in Nye County, Nevada as the sole site to be characterized as a permanent repository for the storage of spent commercial nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste; and

WHEREAS, because of these actions by Congress the Clark County Board of Commissioners approved resolutions on January 8, 1985, April 5, 1988, and March 7, 2000 opposing the location of a repository in Southern Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners solidified its opposition to the Yucca Mountain Project through adoption of its Strategic Priorities in 2001

WHEREAS, on February 14, 2002, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham issued a recommendation in favor of establishing Yucca Mountain as a high-level nuclear waste repository; and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2002, U. S. President George W. Bush announced his acceptance of the Secretary of Energy's recommendation; and

WHEREAS, Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn is expected to issue a notice of disapproval of the site recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress is expected to vote on a resolution designating Yucca Mountain as the nation's high-level nuclear waste repository later this year; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy, in the final *Environmental Impact Statement for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada (EIS)*, lists numerous potential truck and rail routing alternatives which will impact Clark County and the Las Vegas Valley; and

WHEREAS, if Yucca Mountain is developed as a repository, the implementation of certain transportation alternatives in the final EIS could result in the Las Vegas Valley becoming a major access point to Yucca Mountain; and

WHEREAS, the transportation of nuclear waste in the highly developed Las Vegas Valley would create an immediate, direct, and significant risk to the health, safety and quality of life of both residents and visitors, as well as a substantial economic risk to Clark County's tourist-based economy, the major revenue source to Clark County and the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the long-term nature and size of these impacts would make them impossible to completely mitigate; and

WHEREAS, because of the integration of the transportation of the nuclear waste with the development of the Yucca Mountain repository site, and the impossibility of separating these activities it is, therefore, not in the public interest of the citizens of Clark County to have a repository located at Yucca Mountain in Southern Nevada.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Clark County Board of County Commissioners that

1. The Clark County Board of Commissioners reaffirms its opposition to the siting of a high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Nye County in Southern Nevada.

2. The Clark County Board of Commissioners will not negotiate for any *quid pro quo* benefit which could be construed as implied consent to the repository in exchange for mitigation of any potential impacts resulting from the construction and operation of the repository, or the transport of high-level waste through Clark County and the Las Vegas Valley.

3. The Board of County Commissioners is committed to taking appropriate legal action as required to assert its opposition, including, but not limited to, legal efforts resulting from its support of the Nevada Protection Fund.

4. The signed resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Nevada Congressional representatives, and the Governor of the State of Nevada.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED this 5th day of March, 2002.

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

By: _____


DARIO HERRERA, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:


SHIRLEY B. PARRAGUIRRE, COUNTY CLERK