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TO: Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director
FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. OR - NNWSI
DATE: July 10, 1986
SUBJECT: Newspaper Articles

Please find attached the most recent articles that have appeared in our local newspapers. Again, I believe you will find them of interest.

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Attachments

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Nevada's Largest Morning Newspaper

West governors support Bryan's nuke dump stand

By MARY MANNING
SUN Staff Writer

The Western Governors Association unanimously adopted Nevada Gov. Richard Bryan's resolution Tuesday criticizing the Department of Energy for abandoning the search for a second repository for the nation's high-level nuclear wastes.

The resolution, also supported by Washington and Oregon, urges the president and Congress to stop progress on the first repository — scheduled to open in 1998 at Yucca Mountain, Deaf Smith County, Texas or Hanford, Wash. — until a second repository search begins.

Energy Secretary John Herrington said on May 28 that DOE decided not to continue seeking a second repository site in 17 eastern and Midwest states because power plants had slowed production of radioactive wastes that remain hazardous to the environment for hundreds of thousands of years.

"If a second repository is not established, one site in the West will be the burying ground for all the nation's nuclear waste," Bryan said.

"I am gratified that the other governors of the association share my deep concern over nuclear waste storage," the governor added.

Bryan filed five lawsuits against DOE

once Yucca Mountain, about 80 miles northwest of Las Vegas, was chosen in the top three finalists for the nation's first nuclear repository.

Court documents charge the government with ignoring the intent of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

"There is no reason why the West as a region, or any of its states should except an unfair burden forced upon us by Washington, D.C., bureaucrats who choose to ignore the provisions of the act, relative to the location of a second repository not located in the West," Bryan said.

"Although three sites considered for the first repository, including Yucca Mountain, are located in the West, 85 percent of the spent fuel waste is generated east of the Mississippi River," Bryan said.

The resolution also noted the intent of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to offer regional and geographical equity as part of the nation's radioactive waste disposal strategy, Bryan said, by assuring at least two repositories built in different areas of the country.

"The DOE decision to abandon the second repository destroys regional equity contemplated in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act," the governor said.

Reid launches letter drive against nuke dump

By Vaughn Roche
Review-Journal

Rep. Harry Reid, D-Nev., asked Nevadans and his congressional colleagues Monday to sign a letter telling President Reagan of the state's opposition to its possible selection as a site for a nuclear waste repository.

Reid, a U.S. Senate candidate, said he agreed with Reagan's recent statement that the issue should not be a partisan one and invited Republicans to join him and Democratic Gov. Richard Bryan in bipartisan opposition.

He said rallies will be held at Lorenzi Park in Las Vegas on July 19 and in Reno on July 26 to dramatize the drive for signatures.

Reid's Republican opponent in the Senate race, Jim Santini, responded by calling the letter-signing drive "an election year stunt." He said his own opposition dates to October 1979, when he was a Democratic congressman, and includes his sponsorship of an amendment permitting a state to veto the repository.

"Our research shows that while Harry Reid became a congressman in 1983, not until 1985 did he say anything on the floor of the House

against high-level nuclear waste," Santini said. "What I want to know is, where were you when we needed you, Harry?"

Reid has called the veto useless, pointing out that Congress can override it and that congressional delegates from the 49 other states are unlikely to uphold the veto if there is a chance their states could be the alternative repository site.

Reid said other states that were considered for a second repository site, such as Maine, had been ruled out, he presumed, because political leaders in those states were unified in their opposition to the proposal. The search for a second repository site has been delayed indefinitely.

Reid said his letter will carry this message: "Mr. President, we in Nevada have gladly given to our country for many years, but we do not want to be the repository for the nuclear waste of Eastern states under any conditions, now or in the future."

Nevada, Texas and Washington are the three finalists in the Department of Energy's search for stable ground where waste from nuclear reactors and weapons production will be buried. The site will be chosen in 1990.

Yucca Mountain, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, is believed to offer ideal conditions for undisturbed storage of the highly radioactive material, which would remain deadly for at least 10,000 years.

The DOE continues to study the site's suitability despite protests from Reid and Nevada's three Republican congressional delegates. Although not declaring absolute opposition to the repository, the Republicans have questioned the objectivity of the selection process and have attempted to cut off study funds.

Reid said his letter is a challenge to U.S. Sens. Paul Laxalt and Chic Hecht and Rep. Barbara Vucanovich to clarify what he called their uncertain stand on the issue.

Reid called the Republican delegates' opposition "token" and questioned whether they had agreed secretly not to resist the state's selection for the repository.

"They can answer by signing this letter to the president," Reid said.

Vucanovich, who said recently that she would oppose the dump absolutely under current political conditions, said Monday that she is willing to sign the letter. She said she had sent several of her own to

Reagan. Laxalt and Hecht could not be reached for comment.

"Senators Laxalt and Hecht have yet to state their unconditional opposition to the dump," Reid said. "Instead, they have criticized the selection process."

"This year, the nuclear issue permeates every facet of our public agenda. It is not enough for my congressional colleagues to issue statements from Washington, D.C., about their positions on this crucial issue."

"I firmly believe that the indecision of my colleagues is the major reason Nevada is now being considered as one of three sites for a high-level dump."

Reid said the Republican delegates have refused for three years to join him in opposing the repository. He said they have voiced their qualified resistance to the repository only in the past few months.

"The people of Nevada deserve to know how their elected leaders really feel on this issue, and whether they will go to the mat in opposing the Reagan administration in selecting Nevada for the dump," Reid said.

"It is not enough, six months out

from an election, to simply criticize the selection process."

During the press conference, Reid also expressed anger toward Santini for what he said were negative remarks made about his family. He said Santini had said he felt sorry for the family for having to substitute for Reid in the campaign for Nevada's rural counties.

"I'm proud of the fact that my family is campaigning for me," Reid said. "I don't have the luxury of having Paul Laxalt, Chic Hecht, Barbara Vucanovich and Ronald Reagan to campaign for me."

However, Santini said he did not object to Reid's family's involvement in the campaign but rather to Reid's avoidance of campaign appearances in cities such as Elko, Ely, Battle Mountain and others.

"Harry apparently limits his personal campaigning in rural Nevada because he refused those citizens the courtesy and responsibility of public hearings or testimony on his wilderness proposals," Santini said.

"He also refused the citizens of Elko and nearby areas a public debate with me on June 30. Those citizens are naturally offended about Harry's capricious and arbitrary actions in these matters."