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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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TO: Mr. Robert E. Browning, Director  
FROM: Paul T. Prestholt, Sr. On-Site Licensing Representative  
DATE: May 7, 1987  
SUBJECT: Newspaper Articles

Please find enclosed more information that appeared in our local newspaper that is of interest.

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# Las Vegas SUN

THURSDAY

MAY 7, 1987

## Sen. Hecht introduces nuke waste legislation Bill would require 50-year cooling period before permanent disposal

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A Nevada senator introduced legislation Wednesday requiring that high-level nuclear waste be cooled for 50 years at power plants or a storage facility before being transported for permanent disposal.

Sen. Chic Hecht, R-Nev., said it would be safer and cheaper to transport and permanently store waste that had cooled for a half-century.

His bill would amend the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act, which establishes a national policy for storage and permanent disposal of high-level radioactive waste from more than 100 plants.

As a result of the policy, the Energy Department plans to open a surface storage

facility in 1998 to collect and package waste until a permanent deep-earth repository is open in the year 2003, but neither facility has been finalized by Congress.

Under those plans, the waste might be cooled only five years before being transported to a permanent dump.

"My bill will guarantee that if and when the waste is finally shipped to a repository, it will be much cooler, much less radioactive and much less dangerous to the public and to the environment," Hecht said.

The high-level repository is proposed for one of three finalist sites located in Nevada at Yucca Mountain, Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington state or Deaf Smith County

in the Texas Panhandle, and the storage facility is planned for Oak Ridge, Tenn.

All three states vigorously oppose attempts to locate the nuclear dump within their boundaries. They also oppose a Senate bill offering \$100 million a year to the state or Indian tribe willing to host the dump and \$50 million to the host of the storage facility.

Hecht and other members of the Senate Energy Committee visited nuclear waste facilities in France and Sweden last month where they saw high-level waste being stored in a safe and non-controversial fashion for 30 to 50 years.

"We should apply this safety lesson to our own nuclear waste program," Hecht said.

# Nuke waste site measures proposed

Review-Journal Capital Bureau

**CARSON CITY** — A proposed tax on a high-level nuclear waste repository that could generate up to \$8.5 million annually was introduced Wednesday in the Senate.

Meanwhile, a bill was introduced in the Assembly to create a new county that would include the site of a proposed nuclear-waste dump so the state can reap the tax benefits from the federal project.

Sen. Ken Redelsperger, chairman of the Senate Taxation Committee, is the chief sponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 21.

The resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to allow separate assessment and taxation of facilities for the storage or dis-

posal of high-level radioactive waste and the property the facilities are located on.

Redelsperger, R-Pahrump, said it would allow the state to assess a nuclear waste dump at \$5 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

He estimated the facility would generate as much as \$8.5 million a year in tax revenues, which would be distributed to the state, counties and local governments.

The Department of Energy is considering building the nation's first high-level nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain in Nye County. The other two possible sites are in Hanford, Wash., and Deaf Smith County, Texas.

Redelsperger estimated Nye County would receive as much as 17.5 percent of the tax generated from a high-level repository.

The tax would be levied as soon as development of a repository begins, Redelsperger said.

The bill introduced in the Assembly on the dump would create Bullfrog County, which would encompass only uninhabited Yucca Mountain. It also would set a property tax of \$5 per \$100 of assessed valuation on the dump site.

The county seat would be Carson City and the Legislative Commission would appoint the county commissioners.

Any tax benefits accrued under a

federal grant program for the repository would go to the state, under Assembly Bill 756.

The state would have the option of keeping all dump revenues or disbursing some of the money to local governments.

The bill was introduced by the Assembly Government Affairs Committee but is being backed by Assemblyman Paul May and Sen. Tom Hickey, both North Las Vegas Democrats.