

# The NIMBY Syndrome in Waste Management and Suggested Solutions

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Nuclear Energy Institute

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Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference



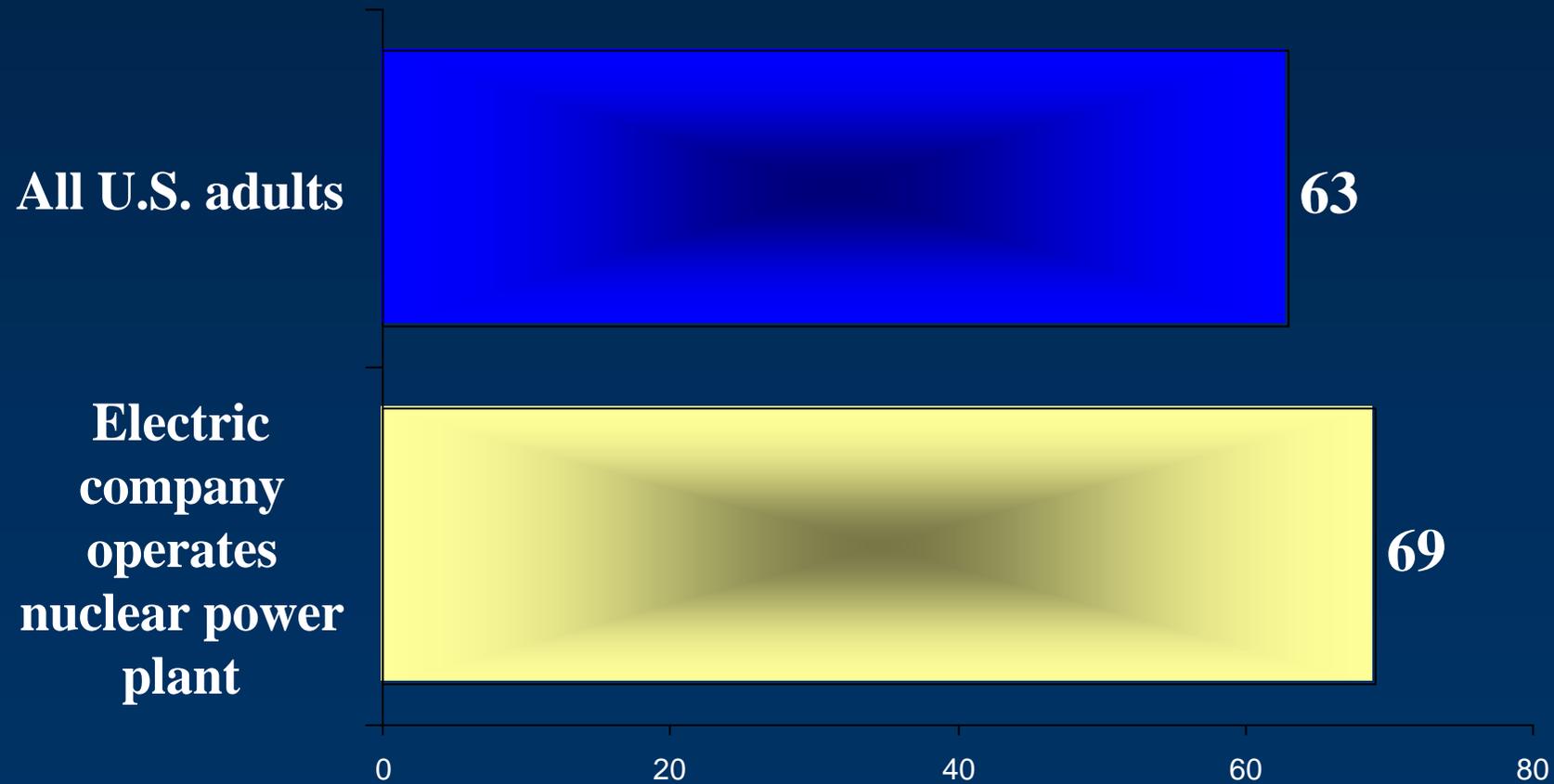


# NIMBY: Not Only Nuclear

- Public resists any new facility
- In the last few weeks...
  - Calpine Corp. withdrew plans for a \$1 billion LNG terminal in Eureka, CA after encountering local opposition
  - Mendocino, CA voted to shut down the biotech industry. Activist: “They had the money, we had the people”
  - Disney theme park rejected

# Support At Nuclear Plant Sites

*Average Percent Favor Nuclear Energy  
2002-2003*

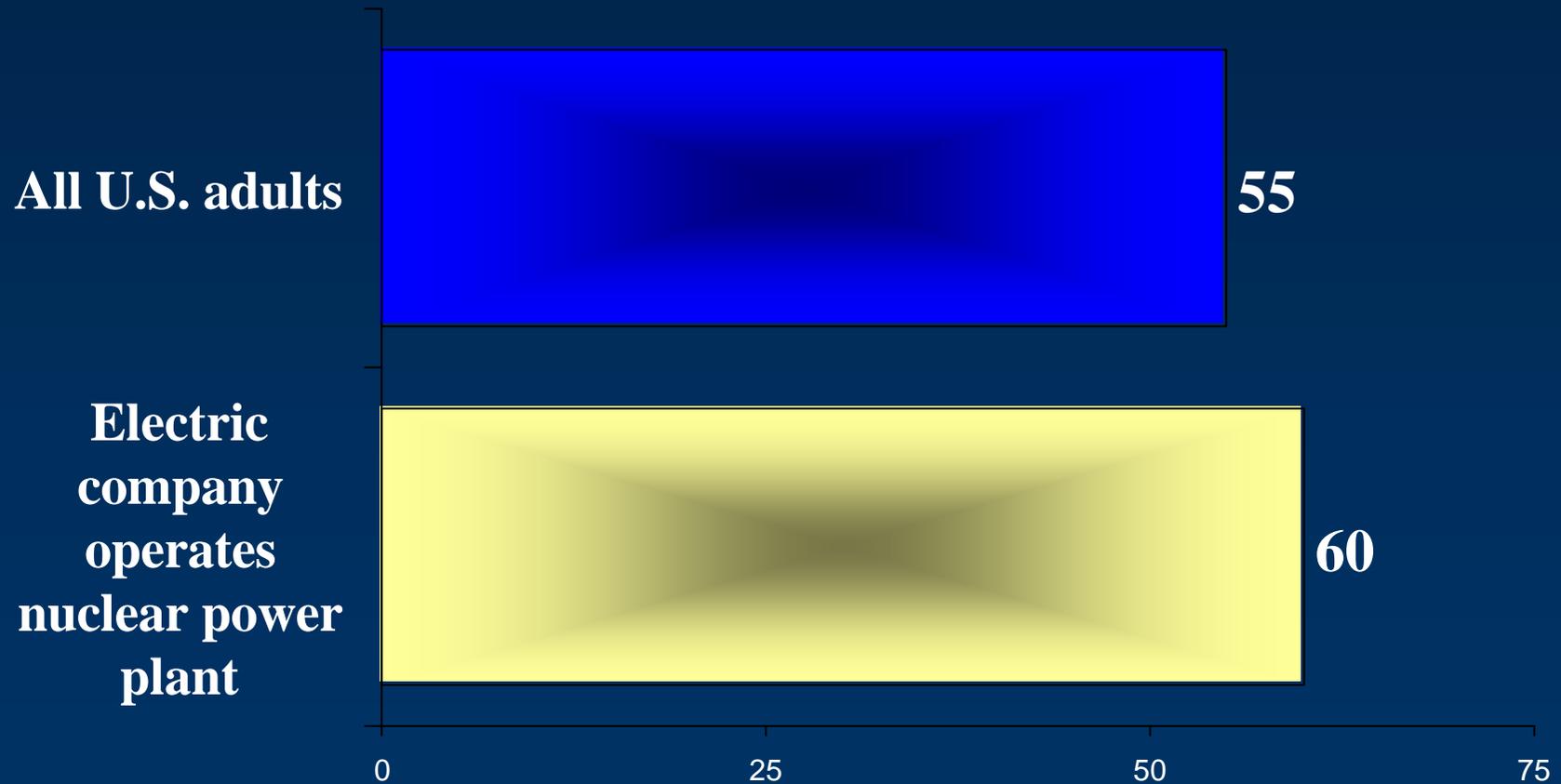


Source: Bisconti Research, Inc.



# Support at Nuclear Plant Sites

*Average Percent Saying a New Nuclear Power Plant  
Would Be Acceptable at Nearest Plant Site 2002-2003*



Source: Bisconti Research, Inc.



# More Favorable Climate for Nuclear Energy

- Growing public and policymaker support heightened during energy shortages
- Broad public support for license renewal
- Few objections to on-site spent fuel storage
- 3 U.S. companies pursuing early site permits to test NRC licensing process

# Yucca Mountain Project

- Siting process based on \$4 billion scientific study, but still politically volatile.
- Nevada state leaders opposed
- Public's fear of radiation presents additional challenges
- Nevadans feel state was unfairly selected
- Industry built local coalition from the start
- Local universities engaged

# Goals of Industry Activities for Yucca Mountain

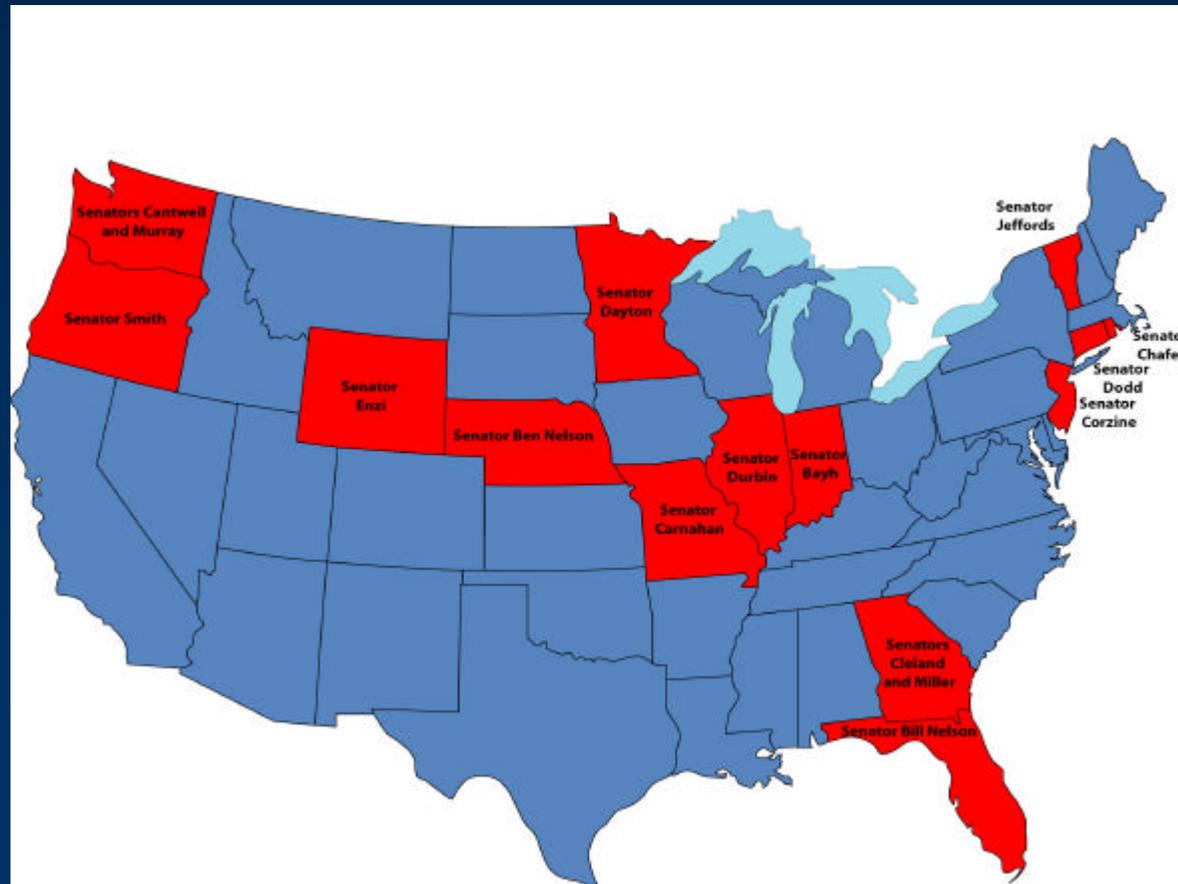
- Site recommendation by Secretary Abraham and President Bush
- Congressional approval
- Nevada program/Yucca licensing
  - Oversight of the scientific and licensing work
  - Encourage constructive engagement by Nevada

# NEI Leadership of Industry Campaign

- Political programs
- Coalition programs
- Media outreach/advertising
- Nevada program
- DOE science/licensing programs

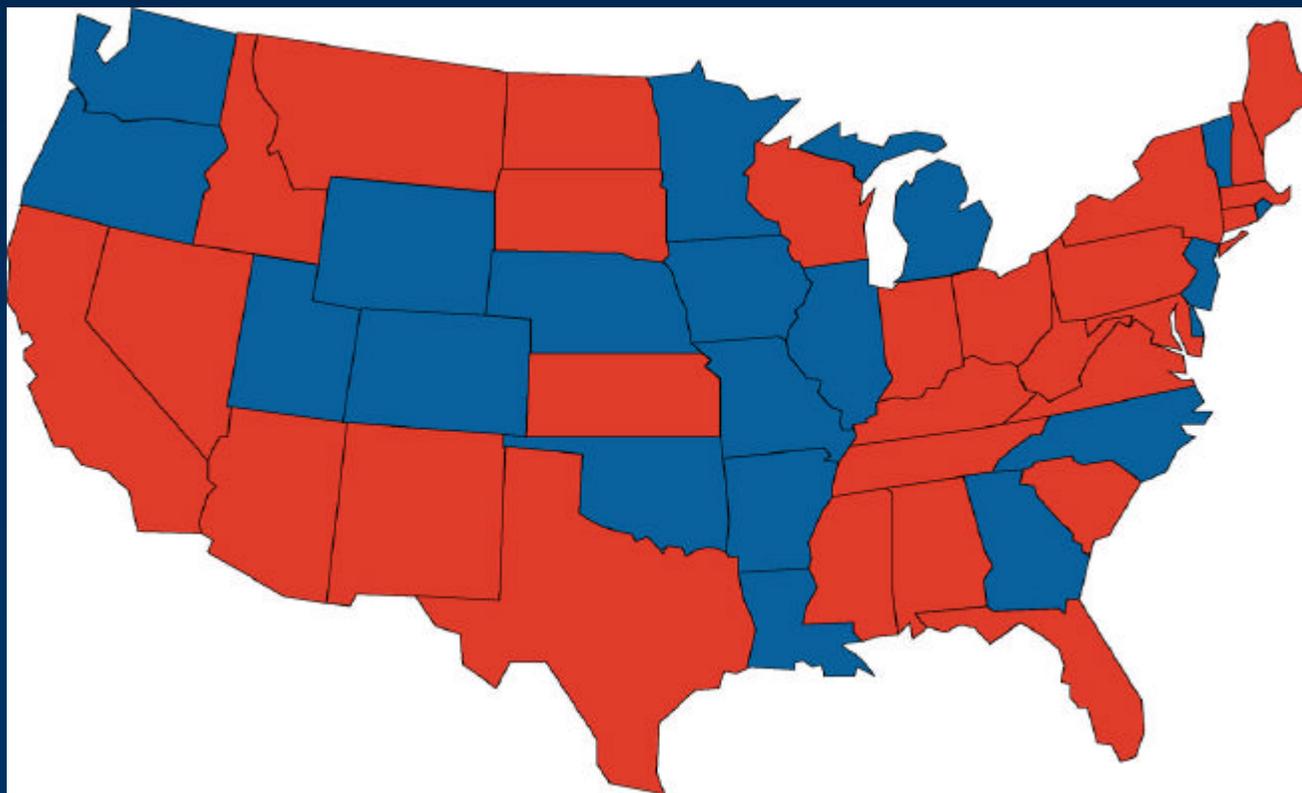
# Influential Leaders Mobilized To Gain Approval in Congress

Contacts supporting Yucca Mountain were made by influential leaders in the states shaded red



# Advertising To Gain Approval in Congress

Television, radio or print ads supporting Yucca Mountain site designation were placed in the states shaded blue



## Senator Richard Durbin Senator Peter Fitzgerald

### 12 Million Illinoisans Are Counting On You! Vote "Yes" on Yucca Mountain

Illinois is home to more used nuclear fuel than any other state – over 6,000 tons are stored at 10 sites across the state. The federal government broke its promise to begin safely moving it out of Illinois to a single, secure, specially-designed disposal facility by 1998 and is at least 12 years behind schedule. Meanwhile, Illinois electric customers have paid the federal government over \$2.5 billion – more than any other state – to construct a permanent resting place.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Energy took a major step toward developing this facility when it recommended Yucca Mountain, a site in the remote Nevada desert, to the President as a suitable location. The House voted overwhelmingly in May to approve Yucca Mountain by a bipartisan vote of 306 to 117. Seventeen out of Illinois' 20 Representatives support the project. Other Illinois officials also support the Yucca Mountain site, including the Illinois House of Representatives, the Illinois Senate, the Illinois Commerce Commission, and mayors and county commissioners from across the state.

It's now time for the Senate to act.

Yucca Mountain opponents claim that transporting nuclear material is too dangerous, but the truth is that the safety record for nuclear fuel shipments is unparalleled. In the United States, over 3,000 shipments of used nuclear fuel have been transported over 1.7 million miles without a single radiation-related incident. If Yucca Mountain is approved, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Department of Transportation will have 8 years to review and bolster safety regulations for these shipments.

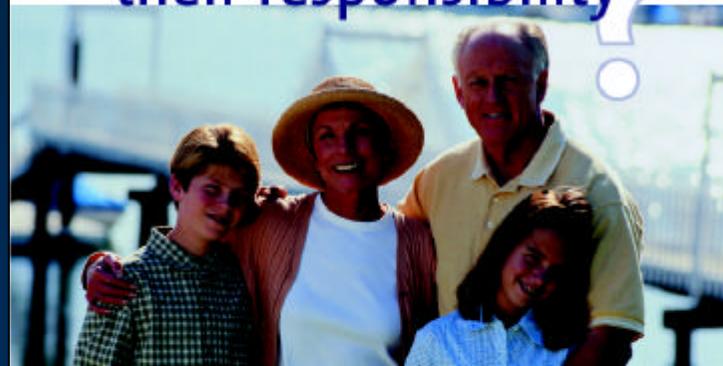
Senators Durbin and Fitzgerald, it's time to stand up for what's best for Illinois. We strongly urge you to vote "yes" on S.J. Res. 34.

### Call Senators Durbin and Fitzgerald

Add your voice to those supporting Yucca Mountain. Call Senators Richard Durbin and Peter Fitzgerald today at (202) 224-3121 and urge them to vote "Yes" on the Yucca Mountain resolution and get nuclear waste out of Illinois.



## Should nuclear waste disposal be their responsibility?



IT'S TIME TO MANAGE USED NUCLEAR FUEL AT THE YUCCA MOUNTAIN FACILITY.

Today's political leaders have a responsibility to advance the nation's nuclear waste disposal program—not leave the job to future generations. It only makes sense: used nuclear fuel should be disposed of at a remote, specially designed facility—not at 103 nuclear energy reactors and 36 federal facilities spread across the country.

Twenty years of intense study by the nation's leading scientists demonstrate we can safely and securely store used nuclear fuel deep beneath Yucca Mountain, Nevada. In addition, 35 years of real-world experience—and thousands of shipments—show we can safely and securely transport used nuclear fuel.

America's nuclear energy plants provide a secure domestic source of energy for one of every five homes and businesses. In order to meet the nation's growing energy needs, the federal government must begin to move used nuclear fuel from 103 nuclear energy plants to a single, well-engineered facility.

The science is in. America needs the energy. Now, only Congress can ensure used nuclear fuel goes to the Yucca Mountain site.

Put used nuclear fuel in its place.



NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE  
www.nei.org



# Media Activities to Gain Approval in Congress

## Should nuclear waste be stored at Yucca?

Yes: Studies show plan is safe

BY LEROY KOPPENDRAYER  
Guest Columnist

America has a very serious situation on its hands: we have 40,000 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel from power plants, defense ships and other facilities, and no place to put it. We are storing this

plants will have to continue storing spent fuel in temporary, above-ground containers made of steel and concrete. And by 2010, at least 80 of the nation's nuclear energy facilities will simply run out of room, and could be forced to shut down operations, resulting in a potential national energy crisis. The place of which would

## Oregon's Smith casts vote for Nevada nuclear storage

The GOP senator backs a panel resolution to express to the Senate its support for Yucca Mountain.

By Tom Metzger  
for ENR.com

WASHINGTON — In a vote watched closely by environmentalists and his Democratic opponent, Sen. Gordon Smith on Wednesday backed away from what was a personal nuclear waste dump at Nevada's Yucca Mountain.

There is no good option here, but I voted for the best available," Smith, R-Ore., said after the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted to send a resolution supporting the Nevada repository to the full Senate.

Referring to spent radioactive fuel stored at the defunct Trojan Nuclear plant near Astoria, Ore., Smith said, "I believe our choice is to get it out of Oregon now or leave it there for Oregon for 1,000 years."

Smith's stance drew an immediate attack from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the Democrat who is trying to push environmentalists to push environmental issues to the forefront of their Senate race.



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## Durbin switches vote on nuclear waste

By Eric Roll  
for ENR.com

WASHINGTON — Sen. Dick Durbin switched sides Tuesday and voted in favor of storing the nation's nuclear waste in Nevada, a move that Republicans called an election-year flip-flop that illustrates a lack of leadership.

The state's senior senator from Springfield supported a resolution calling for used nuclear fuel including 1,100 tons in one later. Calling it the "perfect storm" of environmental protection standards and social concerns, Durbin said he would have supported the plan if it had been approved by the full Senate.

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## Senate OKs Nevada site for nuclear waste dump

By H. Joseph Hebert  
for ENR.com

WASHINGTON — The Senate voted Tuesday to endorse thousands of tons of radioactive waste inside Yucca Mountain in the Nevada desert, rejecting the state's fervent protests and ending years of political debate over nuclear waste disposal.

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## Transport of spent fuel from Oregon to the designated repository at Yucca Mountain, Nev., should be a priority for our leaders

By Roger Pearson  
for ENR.com

Transport of spent fuel from Oregon to the designated repository at Yucca Mountain, Nev., should be a priority for our leaders. It's time to get nuclear waste out of the state.

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## EDITORIALS

Use The Deal On Yucca Site

Use the nation's nuclear waste in storage site at Yucca Mountain, Nev., as a bargaining chip for your garbage on your neighbor's property. A Las Vegas spot included in a recent Courier story. It's a bargain, but don't worry. We're not saying that storing the fuel and other radioactive waste in 100 miles to the United States is like everyone in your neighborhood getting garbage to the street every day. The federal government has the most sense should go back on nuclear waste approval by the U.S. Senate in a matter of days.

The federal government was supposed to have approved a national nuclear waste dump by 1988, but Congress and various administrations delayed. Finally, President Bush put his stamp on Yucca Mountain, and the House confirmed. The Senate should vote yes to complete the approval process.

Even if congressional action was wrapped up today, it will take eight more years to get Yucca Mountain fully ready for business. Don't waste any more time, Washington.

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## Our perspective

Yucca Mountain moves a good plan forward

Ultimately, the wisdom of burying the waste in Yucca Mountain is not so much a scientific question as a political one, for which no panel of experts can offer crystal certainties or iron guarantees. The federal reviews conducted so far seem prudent and thorough, especially in contrast to the distorted and disingenuous arguments raised in opposition.

For a long time opponents hammered on questions about the geology of Yucca Mountain and the sturdiness of the waste containers. After the Energy Department found no serious problems there, they shifted emphasis to the transportation issues. Such assaults are over for a different and, in fact, more genuine environmental concern: Nuclear power poses real risks to human health and ecosystems, and any move that reduces the stockpiled waste may encourage the in-

stabilities to these obstacles to new nuclear plants. The problem of licensing, and operation, and maintenance of the plants and favor of building a separate pool have been the first reactor wasn't, and now it's a mess on our Yucca Mountain next year, serves as a situation for no

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# Principles of Constructive Public Engagement in Nevada

- Public acceptance of the facility is essential
- Public must understand Yucca Mountain project benefits and safety
- Citizens must participate in the process and be treated with respect
- Open dialogue can lead to win-win situation

# Overcoming National Political Obstacles in a NIMBY Situation

- Leadership and systematic planning
  - In U.S., industry has systematically influenced public policy so that new power plants can be built when needed
  - Demonstrate that positive action is politically safe

# Overcoming NIMBY

- Public opinion research should be conducted before and during siting process. Research should guide development of effective messages for the public
- Be proactive with the news media... important that you use this vehicle to communicate. You're opponents will!
- Develop coalitions with broad support
- Let local supporters speak...in some cases, they'll say that "outsiders" are not welcome

# Overcoming NIMBY for New Nuclear Plant Construction

- Develop public trust every day
  - Develop community goodwill over many years
  - Communicate regularly with local officials
  - Participate in government meetings related to your project
  - Know who the public finds credible on your issues and use them to communicate on your behalf

# Overcoming NIMBY for New Nuclear Plant Construction

- Use a stepwise process. Break the siting process into smaller and more acceptable steps that offers potential to reduce opposition.
- Communicate benefits of the project...but they must not be viewed as bribes.

# Overcoming NIMBY for New Nuclear Plant Construction

- Use local leaders to communicate community enhancements derived from nuclear facility projects
  - NEI economic benefits studies
  - Emergency preparedness equipment/planning
  - State/federal government benefits

# Jackson Clarion Ledger

“Few Oppose Reactor Expansion”

May 30, 2003 Front Page Headline

Local resident: “The main thing is putting people to work and getting the community going.”