

RESOLUTION NO. R-21-2002**RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS' STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE IN NEVADA**

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada and the nation must contend with what has become a single-minded, coercive federal effort to turn Yucca Mountain into a radioactive waste disposal site at any cost and by any means, while the mountain's flaws and the program's uncertainties continue to mount; and

WHEREAS, science has given way to raw politics as the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and supporters of DOE's repository project in Congress have sought to obfuscate and compensate for an ever-multiplying set of flaws and problems with the site and with the notion of transporting unprecedented amounts of deadly spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste across the country; and

WHEREAS, in August of 1999, DOE released for public comment a draft EIS for the Yucca Mountain repository project. After conducting an extensive review, the State of Nevada concluded that the draft EIS was seriously deficient, both legally and substantively; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham has recommended approval of the Yucca Mountain Site for the development of a nuclear waste repository and President George W. Bush has approved that recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the most potentially explosive aspect of the federal program is the reality that tens of thousands of shipments of deadly spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste will travel the nation's highways and railroads - through 43 states and thousands of communities, day after day for upwards of 40 years; and

WHEREAS, studies undertaken by State of Nevada researchers found that the value of property, especially along potential nuclear waste shipping routes in Clark County stand to be dramatically affected should the Yucca Mountain project go forward. Even under the most benign conditions (i.e., where there are no projected radioactive waste accidents), property value losses are likely along shipping corridors, as well as at distances of up to three miles from the actual highway or rail route; and

WHEREAS, researchers have found that, in the event of an accident involving a radioactive waste shipment destined for Yucca Mountain, property value declines could reach 30 percent or more for residential properties within the shipment corridors with declines of between 20 and 30 percent also anticipated for commercial-office and industrial buildings; and

WHEREAS, studies by the State of Nevada and DOE indicate that 43 states would be directly impacted by shipments to the proposed Yucca Mountain repository with similar research by DOE identifying 109 cities with populations over 100,000 that would be affected by such shipments; and

WHEREAS, the transportation of nuclear waste is highly susceptible to terrorist attack because the shipments of the spent nuclear waste involve long duration, highly visible, nationwide shipping campaigns; that those shipments will be regular and predictable to a single destination; that the increase in the amount of spent fuel shipped and the increased numbers of trucks and rail shipments annually could average several cask shipments per day, every day, for 30 years; and that the implications for shipments through heavily populated areas and through locations that place shipments in significantly disadvantageous tactical positions; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of a successful terrorist attack on a truck cask would mean a dose of at least 310,000 person-rem, resulting in at least 150 fatal cancers, with adverse economic impacts, including business losses and cleanup costs to be as high as \$20 billion; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Las Vegas that we reaffirm our strong opposition to the transportation and storage of high level nuclear waste in Nevada and we support the Governor in any action that he deems necessary to protect the citizens of Las Vegas and the State of Nevada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we remain strongly opposed to the transportation of high level radioactive waste anywhere in Nevada, or across the United States and attempts by Congress of the United States to pre-empt Nevada's legitimate permitting authority for Yucca Mountain.

PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED this 20th day of March, 2002.

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

By


OSCAR B. GOODMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:


BARBARA JO RONEMUS, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

 3/8/02
Date