

The NIMBY Syndrome in Waste Management and Suggested Solutions

Scott Peterson
Nuclear Energy Institute
March 25, 2004
Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference



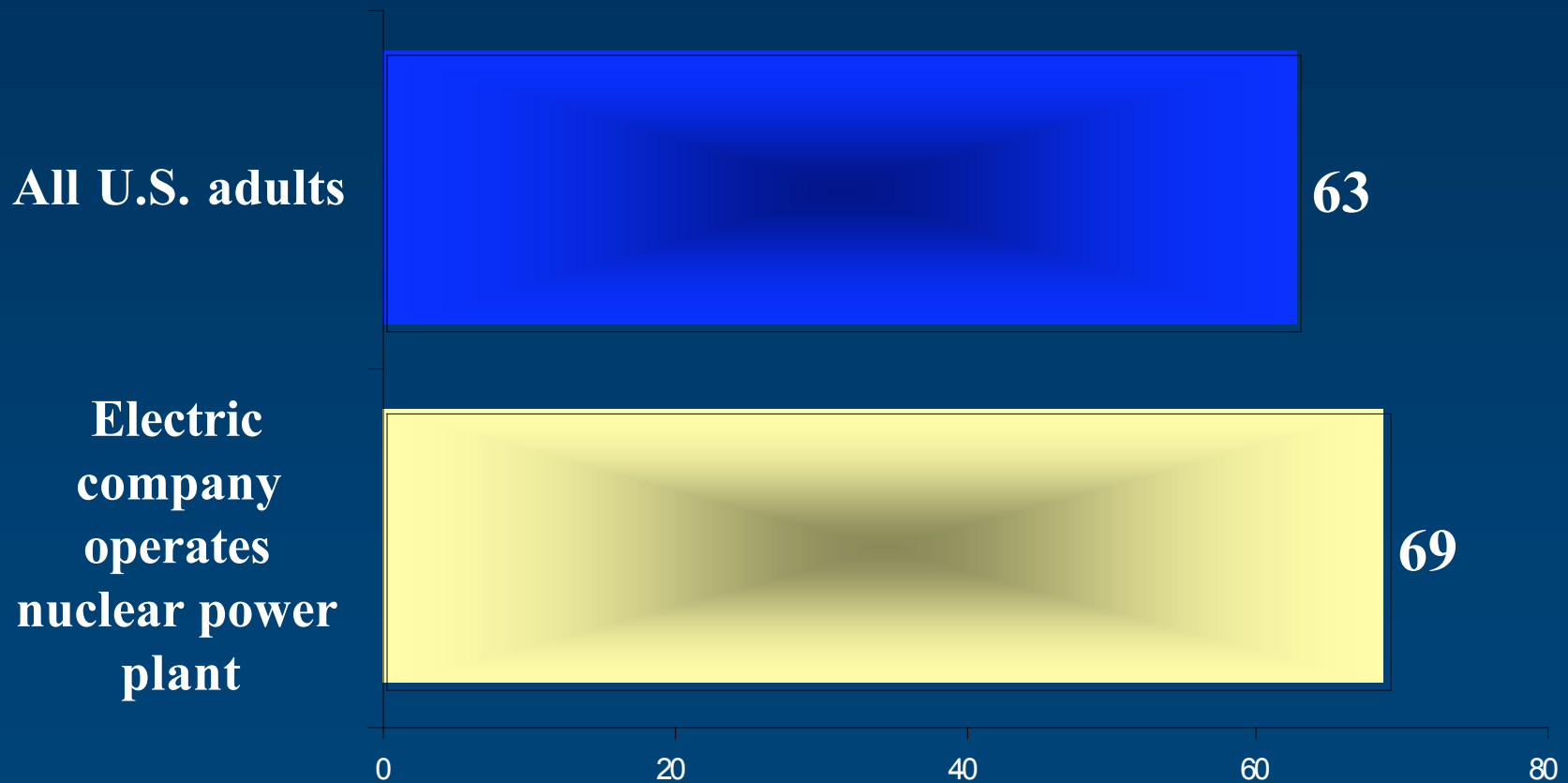


NIMBY: Not Only Nuclear

- 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*

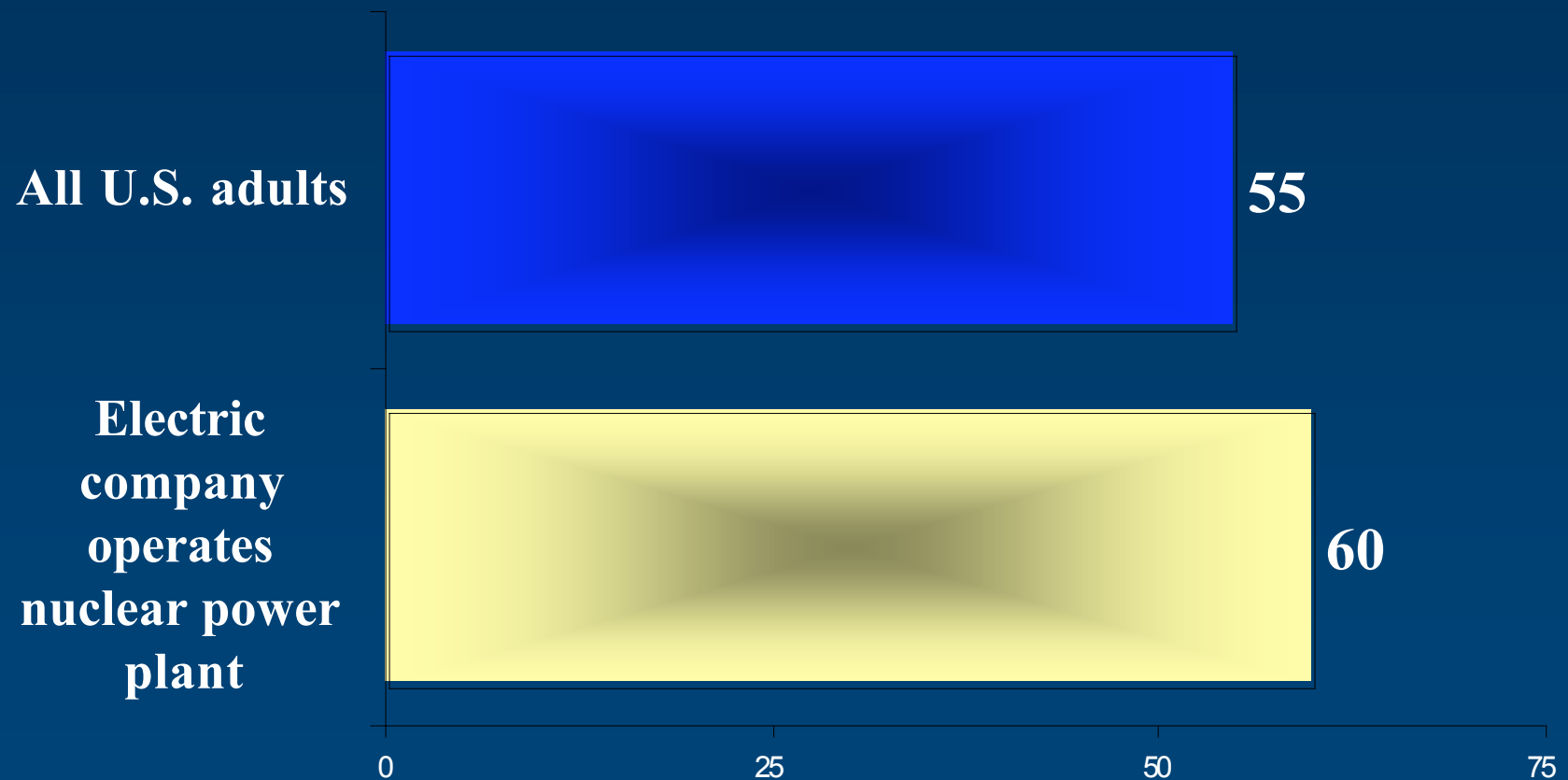


Source: Bisconti Research, Inc.



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

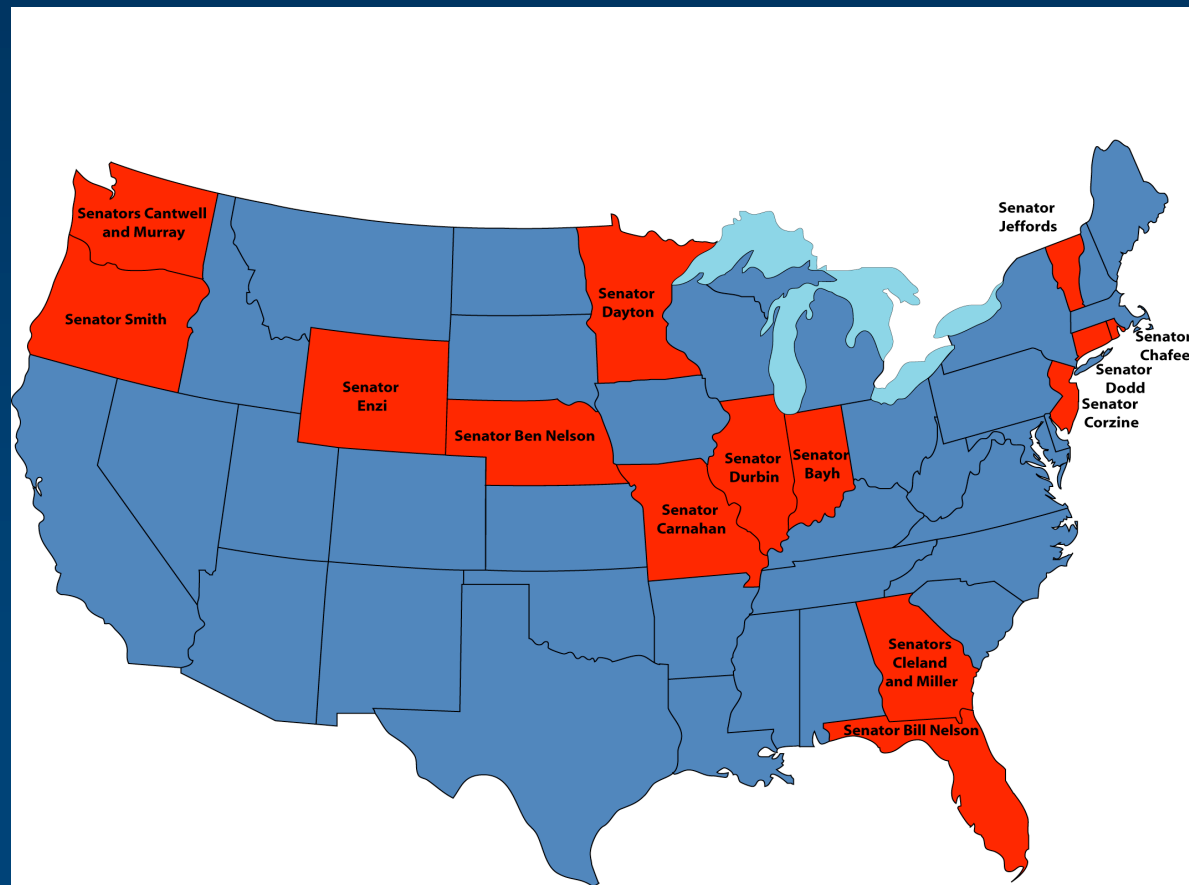
NEI Leadership of Industry Campaign

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



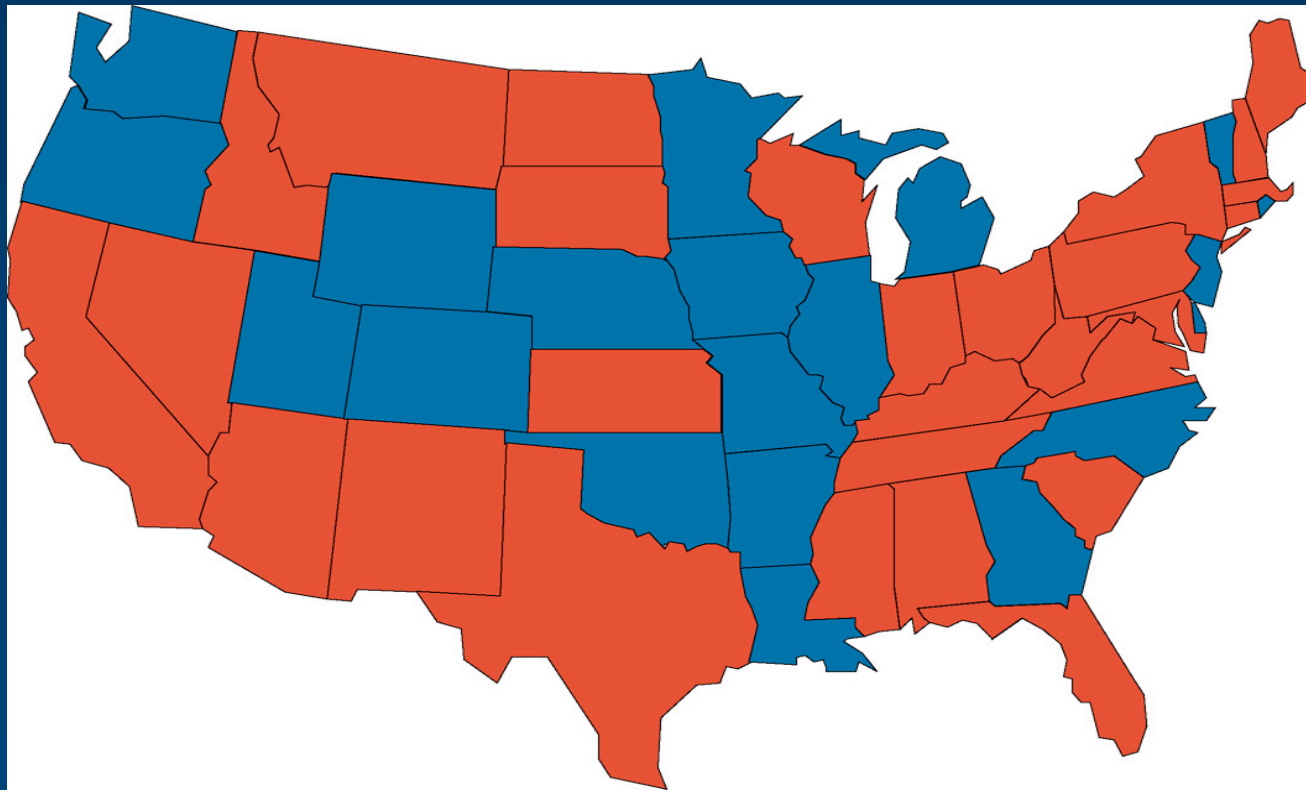
Influential Leaders Mobilized To Gain Approval in Congress

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.

Exelon
Nuclear

CHICAGO LAND
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

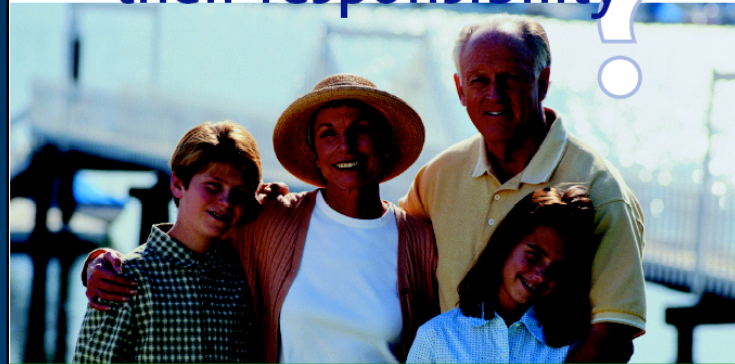
THE ILLINOIS
CHAMBER

ComEd
An Exelon Company

UMA

- Chicago Urban League
- Illinois Democratic County Chairman Association
- Rock Island County Democratic Central Committee

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.

NEI
NUCLEAR ENERGY INSTITUTE
www.nei.org

NEI

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 issue 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

WASHINGTON — In a vote watched closely by environmentalists and his Democratic opponent, Sen. Gordon Smith on Wednesday backed going forward with a national 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 rods stored at the defunct Trojan Nuclear Plant near Astoria, Smith said, "I believe our choice is get it out of Oregon once or leave it glow in Oregon for 1,000 years."

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

"It's really irresponsible to move forward on the Yucca site or any site until you get the transportation issues settled," Broadbent said, warning of the risk of accidents from moving waste on Oregon highways and railways.

Broadbent said he also has questions about earthquake risks at Yucca Mountain and the potential for harm to an aquifer at the site, but "the transportation issues are the ones that really put Oregonians' health at risk."

President Bush in February formally recommended sending the Nuclear Regulatory Commission a license request for the Yucca Mountain repository.

Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn, a



WASHINGTON — In a vote watched closely by environmentalists and his Democratic opponent, Sen. Gordon Smith on Wednesday backed going forward with a national nuclear waste dump at Nevada's Yucca Mountain.

More than 77,000 tons of spent reactor fuel and commercial waste would be stored 900 feet underground at the site 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The site, to open in 2010, is required to hold the waste safely for 10,000 years.

Spent fuel and other nuclear waste is temporarily stored at 131 sites in 39 states and environmentalists said other Yucca Mountain opponents argue that shipping it creates the risk of accidents and opportunities for terrorists.

"This isn't going to solve the nuclear waste problems in Oregon," said Army Hahn, Oregon field representative for National Environmental Trust, part of a coalition that's been lobbying Smith to oppose Yucca Mountain.

Hahn said the government estimates it will take 3,324 trucks and 600 rail shipments to move all the waste from Trojan and the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington. Routes include Interstate 5 through Portland and Interstate 84, she said, "right through Pendleton, (Smith's) hometown."

"It's not going to be a one-shot deal," she said.

About 55 million gallons of nuclear waste is stored in underground tanks at Hanford across the Columbia River. Some has seeped into groundwater around the reservation, and the government plans to spend \$30 billion over 30

years to clean up the site. The cleanup will cost billions of dollars, and the government plans to spend \$30 billion over 30

Durbin switches vote on nuclear waste

BY ERIC KROLL
Daily Herald Political Writer

Democratic U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin switched sides Tuesday and voted in favor of storing the nation's nuclear waste in Nevada, a move his Republican foe called an election-year flip-flop that illustrates a lack of leadership.

The state's senior senator from Springfield supported a measure calling for used nuclear fuel including 1,100 tons in northern Lake County to be permanently stored at Yucca Mountain, 90 miles from Las Vegas.

Durbin twice previously voted against the plan, citing concerns about environmental safety. "Unlike earlier bills, this bill meaningful, science-driven protection from groundwater contamination at the site," said Durbin.

Two Northwest Democrats on the committee, Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon and Sen. Max Baucus of Washington, voted against the resolution.

Wyden spokeswoman Lisa Wade Rasch said the senator remains concerned about transportation risks.

Cannell complained that the government hadn't made enough progress cleaning up Hanford and that Yucca Mountain would only take a fraction of waste from the site.

The Senate has until July 25 to act on the resolution. Nevada's two senators, Democrat Harry Reid and Republican John Ensign, are trying to block it. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., is also opposed.

No: Plan is seriously flawed

Senate OKs Nevada site for nuclear waste dump

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT

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.

for perpetuating "the big lie" that the Nevada dump was urgently needed. The waste—most of it from nuclear power plants—can be kept safely where it is, avoiding the transportation risks, Reid insisted.

If Congress does not act, countered Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska), nuclear power itself

The House passed an identical resolution, overriding Nevada's veto, in May.

After an afternoon of debate, the Senate voted 89-39 on a motion to proceed with the resolution.

Daschle said there are still "far too many questions" about the Yucca site and whether wastes can be transported securely.

Only three senators voted with the dump. Rhode Island's Campbell (D) worried that it might become lead to radiation

the Sierra Club and Greenpeace that opposed the storage plan were disappointed in Durbin's decision to change his vote.

Dave Kraft, executive director of the Fort-Stovall Nuclear Energy



Dick Durbin Jim Durkin

environmental protection standards and would have required the nuclear waste to be moved more than once.

Representative Durbin simply doesn't know what he's talking about," Durbin spokesman Joe Shoenmaker said.

Illinois is home to more high level radioactive waste than any other state — 7,100 tons at 10 nuclear

plants voted with the dump. Rhode Island's Campbell (D) worried that it might become lead to radiation

the Sierra Club and Greenpeace that opposed the storage plan were disappointed in Durbin's decision to change his vote.

Dave Kraft, executive director of the Fort-Stovall Nuclear Energy

EDITORIALS

se The Deal On Yucca Site

ting the nation's nuclear waste in a storage site at Yucca Mountain, Nev., should be a priority for our leaders

It's time to get nuclear waste out of the state

By Roger Pierson

This summer, Congress has an opportunity to see that Yucca Mountain, Nev., is established as a safe, permanent repository for disposal of the nation's spent nuclear fuel.

The Oregon delegation, led by Sen. Gordon Smith, should approve the Yucca Mountain project to ensure that our state's nuclear waste is safely removed and securely disposed of.

Currently about 500 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel are housed at the closed Trojan nuclear power plant in Columbia County, 14 miles north of St. Helens.

endless shipments rumble through town to a nearby gigantic nuclear spent-fuel dump or have it sent far, far away, we'd take the latter, too. Nevada old-timers also remember that the federal government failed to alert them to the dangers of nuclear bomb tests in the same desert in the previous century.

Still, the current situation is unacceptable. Spent fuel rods from power-plant reactors and other nuclear waste are temporarily contained in scores of storage sites across the country. They are full or getting there and are vulnerable to accident or attack. Most of the sites — such as ones in Haddam and Waterford, Conn. — are in more heavily populated areas than the Nevada desert.

The federal government was supposed to have opened a national nuclear waste dump by 1996, but Congress and various administrations dithered. Finally, President Bush put his stamp on Yucca Mountain, and the House concurred. The Senate should vote yes to complete the approval process.

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

Given the choice of having

likely, for there are obstacles to newing in an insurer is stores another, roblem of fight- that would be ge of licensing, and operation, intain's storage

d the argument in be allowed to ste over nuclear has resolved the vice — once in the plants and avor of building

sal is a separate ould have been e first reactor wasn't, and now de mess on our e Yucca Mountain- year, serves

st situation for no



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.”

