

Senator Harry Reid's Statement

On The NRC's Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement For Yucca Mountain

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Las Vegas, N.V. – Nevada Senator Harry Reid released the following statement after the Nuclear Regulatory Commission released their Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Yucca Mountain license application:

“The Draft Supplemental EIS for Yucca Mountain was completed because two years ago the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit directed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to continue wasting the limited remaining funding the Commission had for Yucca licensing. Completing the Draft Supplemental EIS was a waste of time because the Yucca Mountain Project was terminated in 2009 and zero funding has been appropriated for over five years.

“Furthermore, the NRC has already acknowledged that the license application cannot be approved because the federal government does not have the water it needs, nor control of the land necessary to build a nuclear waste dump in Nevada.

“These are just a few reasons why the Yucca Mountain project will never be built. Congress should instead focus on consent-based solutions that don't shove nuclear waste down a community's throat over the objections of its people. That is why Senator Heller and I have introduced the Nuclear Waste Informed Consent Act, which would require the Secretary of Energy to secure written consent from the Governor of the host state, affected units of local government and affected Indian tribes before a nuclear waste repository may be built.”