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Nevada Energy Park

A Bold Solution to our Nation's Nuclear Spent Fuel Problem

Permanent burial of commercial nuclear spent fuel is an outdated idea. Why bury a "fuel" that has the potential of generating over **5 trillion KW** of "green" base-load power?

The Nevada Energy Park can solve our nation's "nuclear waste" problem while creating thousands of (non stimulus) jobs; developing a new, "**green**" energy source; and advancing nuclear technologies that can benefit our nation's security and energy sectors.

Scientists have been studying nuclear fuel separation technologies for decades, but they don't know which one is the most efficient and safe for commercial application. That is why we need the Nevada Energy Park – **to host the best minds in the country who will "compete" to find the best technology that can safely reuse spent fuel and create a new a form of clean energy**, while reducing or even eliminating the need for further storage.

Funding for this program does not come from the tax payers, but from the Nuclear Waste Trust Fund, which has a current balance of \$25 billion+. (Each year about \$800 million is paid into the fund from nuclear rate payers, and another \$700 million is made in interest.) **Allocating less than 15% of the annual interest payments**, or about \$100 million annually, is what we predict can build the energy park complex and **begin the demonstration projects**.

If managed as public/private partnership, the NEP can actually create a profit to solve this national problem. A non-profit organization (similar to the [HYPERLINK "http://www.fra-hq.org/"](http://www.fra-hq.org/) Fermi Research Alliance that manages Fermi Lab in Illinois) should manage the stock piles of spent fuel and the research park. The Federal government can retain oversight, but applying private sector principles to the nuclear fuel management cycle can create revenue, reduce the over 80,000 tons of nuclear spent fuel that is stored across our nation, and create a new form of clean energy.

Nevada should also consider creating a trust fund, similar to Alaska, as a way to provide annual dividends to Nevadans for agreeing to host this national site.

Americans have already invested over \$15 billion to build safe and secure complexes at the Nevada Test Site and surrounding facilities. **These remote, federal sites provide an ideal location for the Nevada Energy Park.** The long tunnels at the NTS are perfect for housing linear accelerators; while the abundant land, infrastructure, and water can support the development of reactor demonstration projects. The infrastructure of homes, schools and services near Mercury and Las Vegas provide more than adequate accommodations for the thousands who will be working at the complex.

Congress must update the Nuclear Waste Policy Act to incorporate advancements in technology to better address the future use and disposal of nuclear spent fuel. We urge our leaders to work with Congress to help resolve this issue by creating the Nevada Energy Park.