

Governor Jim Gibbons



For Immediate Release: July 17, 2007

GOVERNOR JIM GIBBONS ANNOUNCES HIS DECISION TO SUPPORT THE STATE WATER ENGINEER'S EFFORTS TO HALT DRILLING AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Carson City— An outspoken critic of the use of Yucca Mountain as a dump site for the nation's nuclear waste, Governor Jim Gibbons today announced his support of the State Water Engineer's decision to ask the U.S. Department of Energy to suspend their unauthorized use of Nevada water for drilling at Yucca Mountain.

"The DOE's continued mismanagement and lack of quality control measures at the high-risk Yucca Mountain project has earned a zero confidence grade in the minds of Nevadans. The unauthorized use of water for drilling is further evidence that the DOE continues to rush it to completion regardless of Nevada's rights and concerns," said Governor Gibbons.

Since 2003, the State Water Engineer has consistently refused to grant the DOE permission to use water for a drilling program at Yucca Mountain, and Governor Gibbons fully supports this action. ***"Senate Bill 274, which I recently signed into law, gives injunctive relief and permits fines for violations of Nevada Water Law,"*** Governor Gibbons added. ***"I am fully supporting the right of the State Engineer to apply this law to prevent the further abuse of Nevada's rights."***

The license application process for Yucca Mountain has been put on hold by the Federal District Court, and some view the DOE's actions as circumventing the restrictions imposed while the case progresses.

"This is yet another red flag that raises concerns about the ongoing efforts at Yucca Mountain and the DOE's desire to expedite a project that has been deemed 'broken' by Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman himself," Governor Gibbons concluded.

During the ten years that Gibbons was a member of Congress, he spoke against the Yucca Mountain project and strongly questioned the science, which was found to contain serious inaccuracies and flaws.

-30-