

Title:

A Nuclear Power Plant May Be Next for New Mexico

Word Count:

1917

Summary:

We continue the series entitled, ^New Mexico Joins the Nuclear Renaissance,~ and discover New

Keywords:

Energy, nuclear, nuclear reactor, nuclear power plant, New Mexico

Article Body:

Federal lawmakers patted themselves on the back, last Friday, in a joint bi-partisan news release.

For Senator Domenici, this was another major victory as the longest serving U.S. Senator in New Mexico.

And again, it was Domenici, whose last minute negotiations with Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman secured the approval of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Senator Domenici's impact upon the nuclear resurgence in the United States is evident to the eyes of all.

Domenici's Democratic counterpart, Senator Jeff Bingaman, is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

No, the former attorney, who reportedly once provided legal advice to uranium mining powerhouses in the West.

The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership

In March 2006, Senator Domenici pledged his support to President Bush's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership.

^With GNEP, we begin to close the cycle on nuclear waste in ways that prevent proliferation and ensure energy security.

One of the key technologies in the GNEP program is the Advanced Burner Reactor (ABR). Derived from the technology used in the

Instead of burying several football fields of nuclear waste in Yucca Mountain (or elsewhere) for thousands of years.

The major issue in the western United States, about nuclear waste, is ^please don't put it in the desert.

New Mexico's Enrichment Facility:

Prelude to a Nuclear Power Plant?

If Federal lawmakers are happy about the proposed uranium enrichment facility, some of New Mexico's politicians are not.

Mainly the four state senators and representatives, whom we interviewed, echoed each other's pessimism.

Senators Leavell and Gay G. Kernan, the state senator from Hobbs, were invited by Urenco Ltd. to visit the enrichment plant in

Looking for deeper insights into what the future might hold, we asked all four about the possibility of a nuclear reactor in New Mexico.

Donald L. Whitaker, the Democratic legislator from Eunice, the closest town to the proposed enrichment facility, said,

^Yes, we want a nuclear reactor in New Mexico,~ Representative Heaton said. Heaton is the legislator from Lordsburg.

Senator Leavell took a more cautious approach, explaining how nuclear reactors need tremendous amounts of water.

Senator Gay Kernan told us, ^I don't know if I should be talking about this, but we are one of the states that are interested in

The third politician, joining Senators Domenici and Bingaman, in praising the NRC approval of the enrichment plant in

In a related development, David Watts, President of the University of Texas of the Permian Bas

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