

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 5—Assemblymen Goedhart; Aizley, Goicoechea, Grady, Hambrick, Hammond, Hansen, Hardy, Hickey, Kirner, Kite, Sherwood, Stewart and Woodbury

Joint Sponsors: Senators Hardy; Cegavske, Gustavson, Halseth, Rhoads and Settelmeyer

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the Federal Government to engage in discussions with the State of Nevada and Clark and Nye Counties, Nevada, regarding the mitigation and containment of water contamination in Nevada which resulted from certain nuclear testing and storage activities that were conducted by the Federal Government in Nye County, Nevada.

WHEREAS, The Federal Government has conducted numerous public, secret and classified activities and military exercises in Nevada that have resulted in the contamination of the water supply in this State with radioactive material and other hazardous contaminants; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada National Security Site, formerly the Nevada Test Site, which is located in Nye County, Nevada, approximately 40 miles north of Pahrump, Nevada, and 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada, was established by the Federal Government in 1950 for the purposes of detonating nuclear devices and conducting other public, secret and classified nuclear tests in connection with the research and development of nuclear weapons for use by the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, From 1951 until 1992, the Federal Government conducted 100 atmospheric nuclear tests and 828 underground nuclear tests at the Nevada National Security Site, which resulted in the detonation of 1,021 nuclear devices; and

WHEREAS, Approximately one-third of the underground nuclear tests at the Nevada National Security Site were conducted directly in aquifers, and many other underground tests were conducted above and below the water table; and

WHEREAS, Radioactive particles have migrated via water from the Paiute Mesa area of the Nevada National Security Site toward Beatty, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Energy has estimated that nuclear testing at the Nevada National Security Site left behind more than 300 million curies of radionuclides, making



the Site one of the most radioactively contaminated places in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Since 1961, Area 5 and Area 3 within the Nevada National Security Site have been primary storage and disposal sites of the Federal Government for low-level and mixed low-level radioactive waste; and

WHEREAS, A study conducted on behalf of Nye County concluded that nuclear testing at the Nevada National Security Site has polluted approximately 1.6 trillion gallons of water in this State; and

WHEREAS, The aforementioned activities of the Federal Government in Nevada have had a deleterious effect on the environment of this State and have resulted in the contamination of the interconnected surface and subsurface waters, groundwater and aquifers of a large geographic area of Nevada with radioactive and other contaminants; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 76th Session of the Nevada Legislature respectfully urge the Federal Government to engage in discussions with the State of Nevada and Clark and Nye Counties, Nevada, regarding:

1. The mitigation and containment of water contamination in Nevada which resulted from nuclear testing and storage activities that were conducted by the Federal Government at the Nevada National Security Site; and

2. The restoration of any water contaminated because of those activities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

