

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5—ASSEMBLYMEN GOEDHART;
AIZLEY, GOICOECHEA, GRADY, HAMBRICK, HAMMOND,
HANSEN, HARDY, HICKEY, KIRNER, KITE, SHERWOOD,
STEWART AND WOODBURY

FEBRUARY 25, 2011

JOINT SPONSORS: SENATORS HARDY; CEGAVSKE, GUSTAVSON,
HALSETH, RHOADS AND SETTELMAYER

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Urges the Federal Government to engage in
discussions regarding the mitigation and containment
of water contamination in Nevada which resulted
from certain nuclear activities that were conducted in
this State by the Federal Government. (BDR R-895)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the Federal
Government to engage in discussions with the State of
Nevada and Nye County, 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.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Federal Government has conducted numerous
- 2 public, secret and classified activities and military exercises in
- 3 Nevada that have resulted in the contamination of the water supply
- 4 in this State with radioactive material and other hazardous
- 5 contaminants; and
- 6 WHEREAS, The Nevada National Security Site, formerly the
- 7 Nevada Test Site, which is located in Nye County, Nevada,



1 approximately 40 miles north of Pahrump, Nevada, and 65 miles
2 northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada, was established by the Federal
3 Government in 1950 for the purposes of detonating nuclear devices
4 and conducting other public, secret and classified nuclear tests in
5 connection with the research and development of nuclear weapons
6 for use by the Armed Forces of the United States; and

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Energy has
19 estimated that nuclear testing at the Nevada National Security Site
20 left behind more than 300 million curies of radionuclides, making
21 the Site one of the most radioactively contaminated places in the
22 United States; and

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

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

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

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

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



* A J R 5 R 1 *

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

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

8 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
9 passage.

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