

**NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:**  
**Joe Davis, 202-586-4940**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Tuesday, July 09, 2002**

## **Abraham Praises U.S. Senate Approval of Yucca Mountain**

**Washington, D.C.** - U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham praised the U.S. Senate today for its overwhelming bipartisan support of the Administration's recommendation that Yucca Mountain be considered for development as America's first nuclear waste repository.

"After more than 20 years of debate, the Senate has rightfully chosen to allow the process of developing a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain to proceed to the next step, recognizing that the independent experts at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) deserve the right to review the 24 years of scientific study of Yucca Mountain and to consider the site for a license.

"America's national, energy and homeland security, as well as environmental protection is well-served by siting a single nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain. Congress has recognized that the Government has safely transported nuclear waste for more than 30 years and, in doing so, has rejected the transportation scare tactics employed by those opposed to Yucca Mountain."

"Without Yucca Mountain, the nuclear waste simply stays where it is. However, by moving the process forward, we have the opportunity to dispose of nuclear waste that has piled-up at 131 sites in 39 states."

"Moving forward in the process also helps ensure that the clean energy generated by nuclear power will remain an important part of America's energy mix. We are pleased that the Congress agrees moving forward is the right thing to do, rather than cutting off the process now and leaving nuclear waste for future generations to deal with."

**- DOE -**

**R-02-140**