

Senate committee cuts spending on Nevada nuclear waste dump

The true funds for Yucca Mountain have already been collected from the public since 1982.

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A Senate committee wants to cut spending for the Yucca Mountain project.

It also wants the Energy Department to answer questions about redesigning the national nuclear waste repository in the Nevada desert.

The Appropriations Committee yesterday (Thursday) voted to allocate 494-point-five (M) Million dollars for the project -- or 50 (M) Million dollars less than the Bush administration requested.

Committee members say they want the Energy Department to say about how used nuclear fuel would be packaged at reactors and managed at the repository -- 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

Democratic Senate leader Harry Reid is a senior Appropriations Committee member and a repository opponent.

He wrote parts of the legislation -- including a call for a Government Accountability Office audit of the Yucca Mountain budget.