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RTC to examine travel routes for nuclear waste headed to Yucca Mountain



U.S. Rep. John Shimkus, R-Ill., Rep. Bob Latta, R-Ohio and Rep. Cresent Hardy, R-Nev., walk along the train tracks during a congressional tour of the Yucca Mountain exploratory tunnel Thursday, April 9, 2015. (Sam Morris/Las Vegas Review-Journal) Follow Sam Morris on Twitter @sammorrisRJ



Members of a congressional tour of the Yucca Mountain exploratory tunnel enter the south portal, April 9, 2015. (Sam Morris/Las Vegas Review-Journal)



Congressional staff members, media and Department of Energy employees wait for congressmen to emerge from the north portal during a congressional tour of the Yucca Mountain exploratory tunnel Thursday, April 9, 2015. (Sam Morris/Las Vegas Review-Journal)



The entrance to the south portal is seen during a congressional tour of the Yucca Mountain exploratory tunnel Thursday, April 9, 2015. (Sam Morris/Las Vegas Review-Journal) Follow Sam Morris on Twitter @sammorrisRJ

By Art Marroquin Las Vegas Review-Journal
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North Las Vegas Mayor John Lee called Thursday for a study on how nuclear waste might travel through Southern Nevada amid concerns that Yucca Mountain could become a repository for the radioactive material.

Along with [fighting](#) President Donald Trump's effort to restart licensing activity at Yucca Mountain, Nevada should also help other states wanting to store nuclear waste, Lee said at the close of a board meeting of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada.

"We are the third most-active state with earthquakes behind California and Alaska, and I'm totally against moving this poison through our valley," said Lee, a former Nevada legislator who served on the Committee on High-Level Radioactive Waste.

“It almost seems like if we can’t fight it, then we can support someone else,” Lee said. “We got to get involved in helping someone else get it, rather than sit here to fight to protect ourselves.”

The RTC’s board could receive a report as soon as next month.

Trump [set aside \\$120 million in his federal budget](#) for fiscal year 2018 to restart the license application to permanently store nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain — a move that was [stopped in 2010 by the Obama administration](#).

Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman, also an RTC board member, said that the U.S. Conference of Mayors was involved in the discussion surrounding the fate of Yucca Mountain.

Las Vegas City Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian said the general public, nationwide, should be told about potential travel routes for nuclear waste.

“If we can get that out, people will realize it’s not just Nevada that’s in danger,” Tarkanian said. “It’s the entire country where they have to come across to Nevada.”

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