

Yucca Mountain Project

Can Nevada residents benefit from Nuclear Waste the same as Alaskans benefit from oil?

No. The Alaska Permanent Fund provides Alaska residents with a share of privatized wealth of a publicly owned asset. In contrast, high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel proposed for Yucca Mountain would not be publicly owned.

The Alaska Permanent Fund was established through a state constitutional amendment, and was approved by Alaska voters in 1976. Private oil companies pay a portion of their revenues to the state to support this Fund. In return, Alaska invests those revenues, and pays cash dividends to all residents on an annual basis.

Since the Fund first was established, the amount each Alaskan received varies each year. For example, payouts have ranged from a low of \$331.29 per person in 1984, to \$3,269 per person in 2008. The 2009 dividend was \$1,305. The amount of the dividend is calculated by dividing the amount available for distribution from the Permanent Fund earnings account by the number of eligible applicants. Generally, the amount varies between \$600 and \$1,500 per person per year.

The Fund was established to distribute payments to Alaskans as compensation for the private use of their lands, and the taking of natural resources. Oil is a natural resource in Alaska. In contrast, nuclear waste is not a natural resource, and in fact, is considered a liability from public health, public safety and security perspectives.

All the natural resources in Alaska belong to the state, to be used, developed and conserved for the maximum benefit of Alaskans. In Nevada, the majority of natural resources are under the control of the federal government.

Public ownership of the oil fields in Alaska means that the people own the resource and the revenues from the sale of these assets. The people of Nevada will have no ownership of nuclear waste or spent nuclear fuel, as it would be under ownership and control of the federal government.

**References: Department of Revenue, Permanent Fund Division,
State of Alaska Earth Rights Institute**



CLARK COUNTY
Department of Comprehensive Planning
Nuclear Waste Program
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