

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4049

To establish within the Department of Energy a National Test and Demonstration Center of Excellence at the Nevada Test Site, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 1994

Mrs. VUCANOVICH (for herself and Mr. BILBRAY) introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Science, Space, and Technology, and Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish within the Department of Energy a National Test and Demonstration Center of Excellence at the Nevada Test Site, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Center for
5 Excellence in Research and Development Act of 1994”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Due to the end of the Cold War, the United
9 States has not recently conducted underground nu-

1 clear testing at the Department of Energy facility
2 known as the Nevada Test Site, Nevada, and the
3 United States does not plan to conduct such testing
4 in the foreseeable future.

5 (2) Because the world political situation is ever-
6 changing and dangerous, it is imperative that the
7 United States remain strong militarily and continue
8 to be a nuclear superpower.

9 (3) It is imperative that the Nevada Test Site
10 be maintained in a full state of readiness to ensure
11 the capability of the nuclear arsenal of the United
12 States.

13 (4) The Nevada Test Site is in a beneficial loca-
14 tion for activities suitable for research and develop-
15 ment of emerging technologies that will be important
16 to the United States in the 21st century.

17 (5) Technology development carried out at the
18 Nevada Test Site should include both private-sector
19 and military projects.

20 (6) The Nevada Test Site can support the stew-
21 ardsip of the Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile,
22 the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, and the
23 technological competitiveness of the United States
24 by providing the environment for nuclear and non-

1 nuclear test and demonstration experiments and
2 projects for government, industry, and academia.

3 (7) The Nevada Test Site can provide the infra-
4 structure to support industrial and civilian tests of
5 environmentally demanding projects and programs.

6 (8) The Nevada Test Site can support the test-
7 ing and demonstration of environmental clean-up
8 technologies by government and industry.

9 (9) The Nevada Test Site can support the test-
10 ing of alternative and renewable energy sources for
11 environmentally clean and economically competitive
12 replacements for traditional fossil energy sources
13 and uses in many parts of Nevada and in the United
14 States as a whole.

15 (10) The Nevada Test Site can provide support
16 for disarmament activities such as the demonstration
17 of rocket motor destruction technology and conven-
18 tional munitions destruction technology.

19 (11) The Nevada Test Site can support non-
20 proliferation experiments in disablement, nuclear
21 forensics, sensors, and verification and monitoring.

22 (12) The Nevada Test Site can support treaty-
23 compliant experiments for stockpile stewardship pur-
24 poses.

1 (13) The size and remoteness of the Nevada
2 Test Site make the Nevada Test Site well-suited for
3 a multitude of activities associated with the restruc-
4 turing of the United States military.

5 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

6 It is the purpose of this Act—

7 (1) to ensure full operational readiness of the
8 underground nuclear testing facilities and infrastruc-
9 ture of the Nevada Test Site;

10 (2) to ensure an appropriate level of funds for
11 such readiness to be maintained;

12 (3) to create a National Test and Demonstra-
13 tion Center of Excellence at the Nevada Test Site
14 for the promotion of disarmament, demilitarization,
15 alternative and renewable energy sources, the non-
16 proliferation of nuclear weapons, sensor develop-
17 ment, and environmentally sensitive technologies;
18 and

19 (4) to ensure the availability of the Nevada
20 Test Site, within appropriate restrictions, for use by
21 private-sector industries seeking to make use of the
22 inherent qualities that make the Nevada Test Site
23 the greatest outdoor laboratory in the world.

1 **SEC. 4. MAINTENANCE OF READINESS CAPABILITY OF NE-**
2 **VADA TEST SITE.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amount referred to in
5 paragraph (2) is hereby authorized to be appro-
6 priated to the Secretary of Energy for fiscal year
7 1995 and each fiscal year thereafter to maintain the
8 operational readiness of the underground nuclear
9 testing facilities and infrastructure of the Nevada
10 Test Site.

11 (2) AUTHORIZED AMOUNT.—The amount re-
12 ferred to in paragraph (1) is not less than the
13 amount appropriated to the Secretary of Energy for
14 fiscal year 1992 to maintain the operational readi-
15 ness of the underground nuclear testing facilities
16 and infrastructure of the Nevada Test Site.

17 (b) STAFFING LEVELS.—During fiscal year 1995 and
18 each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of Energy shall
19 maintain a staffing level at the Nevada Test Site that the
20 Secretary considers sufficient to carry out activities under
21 this Act in addition to any other activities conducted by
22 the Department of Energy at the Nevada Test Site.

23 (c) INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENTS AND ACTIVI-
24 TIES.—The Secretary of Energy, through the Nevada Test
25 Site Operations Office, shall carry out any infrastructure

1 assessments and activities necessary to accommodate new
2 projects and initiatives at the Nevada Test Site.

3 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL TEST AND DEMONSTRATION CENTER OF**
4 **EXCELLENCE.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established
6 within the Department of Energy a National Test and
7 Demonstration Center of Excellence (hereafter in this Act
8 referred to as the “Center”), to be located at the Nevada
9 Test Site, Nevada.

10 (b) PURPOSE.—It shall be the purpose of the Center
11 to promote disarmament, demilitarization, alternative and
12 renewable energy sources, the nonproliferation of nuclear
13 weapons, sensor development, and environmentally sen-
14 sitive technologies.

15 (c) ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ALTERNATIVE AND RE-
16 NEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES.—The Center shall carry out
17 the following testing and demonstration activities that are
18 related to alternative and renewable energy sources:

19 (1) The characterization of solar and geo-
20 thermal resources at the Nevada Test Site.

21 (2) The development of alternative and renew-
22 able energy sources, including, as a goal of the Cen-
23 ter, the development and completion of two 100-
24 megawatt solar power plants by the year 2000.

1 (3) The conduct of a National Alternative-
2 Fueled Vehicles Program, the objective of which
3 shall be to demonstrate the regional use of natural
4 gas, electricity, and hydrogen as vehicle fuels.

5 (d) ACTIVITIES RELATED TO DISARMAMENT AND
6 DEMILITARIZATION.—The Center shall carry out testing
7 and demonstration activities that are related to changes
8 occurring in United States military as a result of the end
9 of the Cold War, including activities—

10 (1) that involve the demilitarization of large
11 rocket motor and conventional ordnance;

12 (2) that assist in disarmament and demilitariza-
13 tion, generally; and

14 (3) that test and demonstrate the nonmilitary
15 application of technologies and resources the mili-
16 tary application of which has decreased or otherwise
17 changed due to disarmament and demilitarization.

18 (e) ACTIVITIES RELATED TO NUCLEAR STOCKPILE
19 STEWARDSHIP.—The Center shall carry out testing and
20 demonstration activities related to the stewardship of the
21 nuclear stockpile of the United States. Such activities shall
22 include—

23 (1) the conduct of experiments that assist in
24 monitoring compliance with international agreements
25 on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons;

1 (2) the provision of support to the Department
2 of Energy nuclear weapons complex;

3 (3) the conduct of programs for the Depart-
4 ment of Energy and the Department of Defense to
5 develop simulator technologies for nuclear weapons
6 design and effects, including advanced hydrodynamic
7 simulators, inertial confinement fusion test facilities,
8 and nuclear weapons effects simulators (such as the
9 Decade and Jupiter simulators); and

10 (4) the conduct of the stockpile stewardship
11 program established pursuant to section 3138 of the
12 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
13 1994 (107 Stat. 1946; Public Law 103–160).

14 (f) ACTIVITIES RELATED TO NONPROLIFERATION.—
15 The Center shall carry out experiments related to the non-
16 proliferation of nuclear weapons, including experiments
17 with respect to disablement, nuclear forensics, sensors,
18 and verification and monitoring.

19 (g) ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL
20 TECHNOLOGIES.—The Center shall carry out testing and
21 demonstration activities related to the development of en-
22 vironmental technologies, including—

23 (1) the demonstration of technologies concern-
24 ing the remediation of toxic and hazardous chemi-
25 cals; and

1 (2) the conduct of training activities pertaining
2 to emergency response to hazardous and toxic acci-
3 dents and emergencies.

4 (h) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—The Center may carry out
5 the testing and demonstration of any other technology
6 which, in the determination of the Secretary of Energy,
7 is appropriate for testing and demonstration at the Ne-
8 vada Test Site.

9 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

10 Except as provided in section 4, there is hereby au-
11 thorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy for
12 fiscal year 1995 such sums as may be necessary to carry
13 out this Act.

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