

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3711

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

NOVEMBER 22, 1993

Mrs. VUCANOVICH 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 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The end of the Cold War has resulted in a
9 cessation of underground nuclear testing at the De-

1 partment of Energy facility known as the Nevada
2 Test Site, Nevada.

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

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

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

15 (5) Technology development carried out at the
16 Nevada Test Site should include private-sector in-
17 dustries as well as military projects.

18 (6) The Nevada Test Site can support the stew-
19 ardship of the Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile,
20 the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the
21 technological competitiveness of the United States
22 by providing the environment for nuclear and non-
23 nuclear test and demonstration experiments and
24 projects for government, industry, and academia.

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

4 (8) The Nevada Test Site can support the test-
5 ing and demonstration of environmental clean-up
6 technologies by government and industry and can
7 support the testing of alternative and renewable en-
8 ergy sources for environmentally clean and economi-
9 cally competitive replacements for traditional fossil
10 energy sources and uses in many parts of Nevada
11 and in the United States as a whole.

12 (9) The Nevada Test Site can provide support
13 for disarmament activities such as the demonstration
14 of rocket motor destruction technology and conven-
15 tional munitions destruction technology.

16 (10) The Nevada Test Site can support non-
17 proliferation experiments in disablement, nuclear
18 forensics, sensors, and verification and monitoring.

19 (11) The Nevada Test Site can support treaty-
20 compliant experiments for stockpile stewardship pur-
21 poses.

22 (12) The size and remoteness of the Nevada
23 Test Site make the Nevada Test Site well-suited for
24 a multitude of activities associated with the restruc-
25 turing of the United States military.

1 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

2 It is the purpose of this Act—

3 (1) to ensure full operational readiness of the
4 underground nuclear testing facilities and infrastruc-
5 ture of the Nevada Test Site;

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

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

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

20 **SEC. 4. MAINTENANCE OF READINESS CAPABILITY OF NE-**
21 **VADA TEST SITE.**

22 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—**

23 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**The amount referred to in
24 paragraph (2) is hereby authorized to be appro-
25 priated to the Secretary of Energy for fiscal year
26 1995 to maintain the operational readiness of the

1 underground nuclear testing facilities and infrastruc-
2 ture of the Nevada Test Site.

3 (2) AUTHORIZED AMOUNT.—The amount re-
4 ferred to in paragraph (1) is the amount appro-
5 priated to the Secretary of Energy for fiscal year
6 1992 to maintain the operational readiness the un-
7 derground nuclear testing facilities and infrastruc-
8 ture of the Nevada Test Site, adjusted for inflation
9 using the Consumer Price Index.

10 (b) STAFFING LEVELS.—During fiscal year 1995,
11 the Secretary of Energy shall, to the maximum extent
12 practicable, maintain a staffing level at the Nevada Test
13 Site that is equal to the staffing level at the Nevada Test
14 Site during fiscal year 1992.

15 (c) ENVIRONMENTAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE AS-
16 SESSMENT ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of Energy,
17 through the Nevada Test Site Operations Office, shall
18 carry out any environmental and infrastructure activities
19 necessary to accommodate new projects and initiatives at
20 the Nevada Test Site.

21 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL TEST AND DEMONSTRATION CENTER OF**
22 **EXCELLENCE.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established
24 within the Department of Energy a National Test and
25 Demonstration Center of Excellence (hereafter in this Act

1 referred to as the “Center”), to be located at the Nevada
2 Test Site, Nevada.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—It shall be the purpose of the Center
4 to promote disarmament, demilitarization, alternative and
5 renewable energy sources, the non-proliferation of nuclear
6 weapons, sensor development, and environmentally sen-
7 sitive technologies.

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

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

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

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

22 (d) ACTIVITIES RELATED TO DISARMAMENT AND
23 DEMILITARIZATION.—The Center shall carry out testing
24 and demonstration activities that are related to changes
25 occurring in United States military as a result of the end

1 of the Cold War, including testing and demonstration ac-
2 tivities with respect to—

3 (1) the demilitarization of large rocket motor
4 and conventional ordnance; and

5 (2) disarmament and demilitarization, gen-
6 erally.

7 (e) ACTIVITIES RELATED TO NUCLEAR STOCKPILE
8 STEWARDSHIP.—The Center shall carry out testing and
9 demonstration activities related to the stewardship of the
10 nuclear stockpile of the United States. Such activities shall
11 include—

12 (1) the conduct of treaty-compliant experi-
13 ments;

14 (2) the provision of support to the Department
15 of Energy nuclear weapons complex; and

16 (3) the conduct of programs for the Depart-
17 ment of Energy and the Department of Defense to
18 develop simulator technologies for nuclear weapons
19 design and effects, including advanced hydrodynamic
20 simulators, inertial confinement fusion test facilities,
21 and nuclear weapons effects simulators (such as the
22 Decade and Jupiter simulators).

23 (f) ACTIVITIES RELATED TO NON-PROLIFERATION.—
24 The Center shall carry out experiments related to the non-
25 proliferation of nuclear weapons, including experiments

1 with respect to disablement, nuclear forensics, sensors,
2 and verification and monitoring.

3 (g) ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL
4 TECHNOLOGIES.—The Center shall carry out testing and
5 demonstration activities related to the development of en-
6 vironmental technologies, including—

7 (1) the demonstration of technologies concern-
8 ing the remediation of toxic and hazardous chemi-
9 cals; and

10 (2) the conduct of training activities pertaining
11 to emergency response to radioactive, hazardous,
12 and toxic accidents and emergencies.

13 (h) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—The Center may carry out
14 the testing and demonstration of any other technology
15 which is appropriate for testing and demonstration at the
16 Nevada Test Site.

17 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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