Gov. Guinn contends Siting Guidelines not in compliance with Nuclear Waste Policy Act

CARSON CITY – Today, the Department of Energy issued its final site suitability regulations, also known as the Siting Guidelines, for the Yucca Mountain site. The determination of the suitability of the Yucca Mountain site by the Secretary of Energy is to be made based upon these regulations.

“The State of Nevada has repeatedly advised the Department of Energy that these regulations are not in compliance with the requirements of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, and as a result are illegal,” Gov. Kenny Guinn said upon learning that DOE published its new regulations today.

“The Department of Energy has had siting regulations on the books since 1984,” Guinn said, “and although the State has requested numerous times that DOE compare the Yucca Mountain site to these regulations, they refused.”

The reason DOE refused, Guinn contends, is that the site would have been disqualified from further consideration long ago.

“The Department’s response is the issuance of new regulations in an attempt to ensure that the site would pass. Changing the rules to fit the site has been the hallmark of this entire program,” Guinn said. “I’m advised that the State’s legal team, including the Attorney General’s office is reviewing the new regulations, and will likely challenge them in federal court in the very near future.”