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REID, CHU MEET TO DISCUSS FUTURE BEYOND YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Senator, Secretary discuss creation of Blue Ribbon Commission on alternatives for dealing with America’s nuclear waste

Washington, D.C. – Nevada Senator Harry Reid and Energy Secretary Steven Chu today met to discuss how the country should move forward from Yucca Mountain after the Obama Administration determined the site is not an option for nuclear waste storage. During their conversation, Reid and Chu agreed on the need to create a Blue Ribbon Commission that looks past Yucca Mountain and explores new long-term options and recommendations for managing our country's nuclear waste.

They also agreed that while Senator Reid's legislation provides valuable guidance about the work of the Commission, Secretary Chu should proceed with establishing a panel at the Department of Energy. Going forward, Secretary Chu will work with Senator Reid and other stakeholders to establish a Commission composed of experts who will evaluate a range of storage, recycling and disposal options.

“Secretary Chu and I had a productive meeting today and I appreciate his commitment to a responsible strategy for dealing with the nation's nuclear waste that does not include Yucca Mountain,” Reid said. “Forming the Blue Ribbon Commission administratively will allow us to move more quickly toward a long-term solution to nuclear waste management. I look forward to working with Secretary Chu and the administration as we pull together this important commission.”

"Senator Reid and I agree that we need to convene a Blue Ribbon Commission as soon as possible to begin exploring solutions for our long-term nuclear waste disposal," said Secretary Chu. "The work of that Commission will help us chart a new path forward that safely and responsibly addresses nuclear management."

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