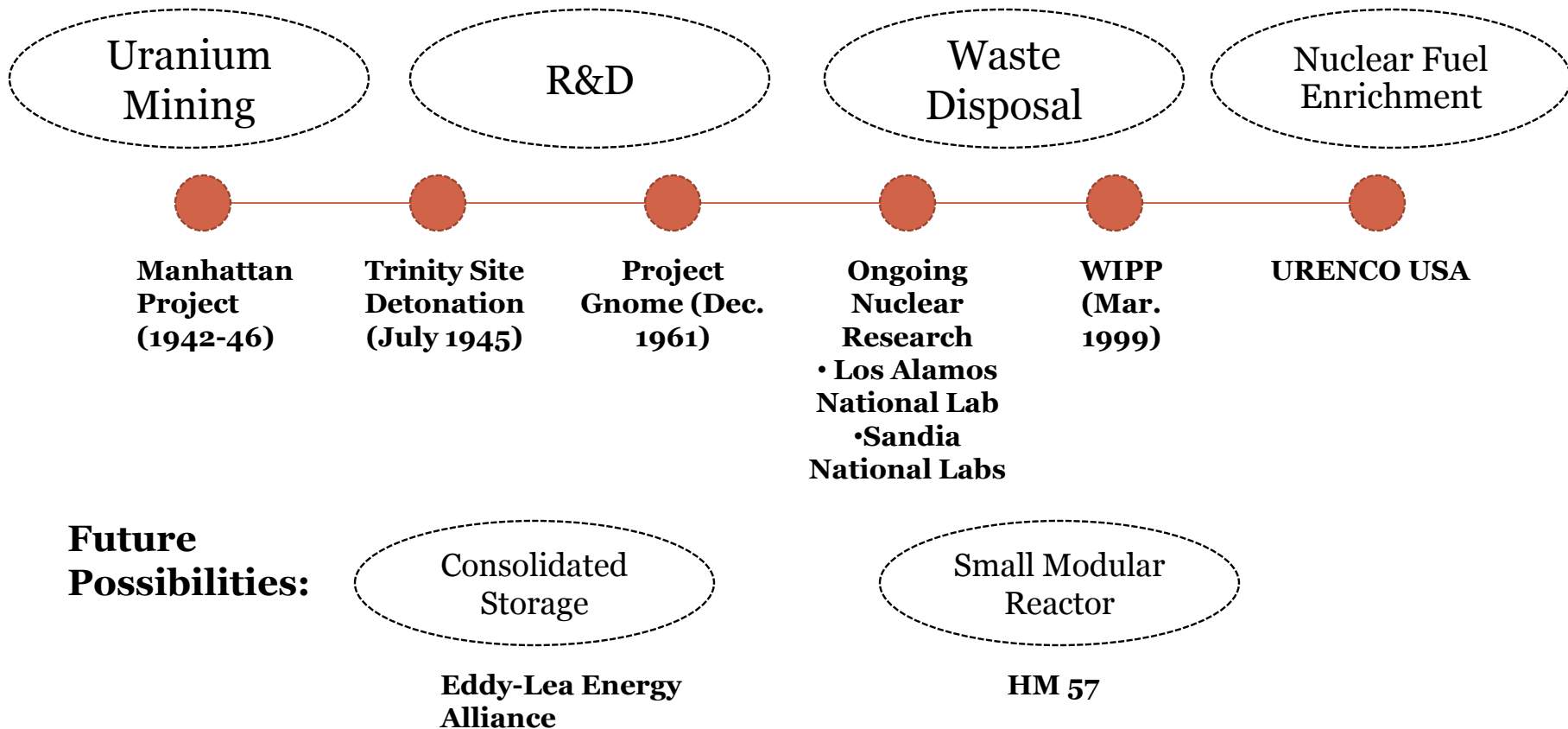


New Mexico Takes a Look at Small Modular Reactors




Rep. Cathrynn N. Brown
New Mexico House of Representatives
District 55

New Mexico's Nuclear History: In Summary, Everything But a Reactor



House Memorial 57, 2014 Legislative Session Passed 46-15



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CHAPTER

HOUSE MEMORIAL 57

Introduced by
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1 A MEMORIAL
2 REQUESTING THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
3 DEPARTMENT TO INCLUDE EVALUATION OF THE FEASIBILITY AND
4 ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF CONSTRUCTING AND OPERATING A SMALL
5 MODULAR REACTOR IN NEW MEXICO IN ITS STATE ENERGY PLAN.
6
7 WHEREAS, energy production is a vital industry to New
8 Mexico, a leading energy production state; and
9 WHEREAS, the energy, minerals and natural resources
10 department is in the process of developing a state energy plan
11 so New Mexico can maintain its leadership well into the
12 future; and
13 WHEREAS, the United States department of energy has
14 recognized the need to include small modular reactors in the
15 nation's future energy mix and has a cost-share program to
16 help fund small modular nuclear reactors that will enable two
17 small modular reactor designs through the design certification
18 process and one through the site licensing process; and
19 WHEREAS, small modular reactors are being designed and
20 tested by companies with extensive experience in the nuclear
21 industry, including Babcock & Wilcox's Generation mPower,
22 NuScale power, Westinghouse and others; and
23 WHEREAS, the United States department of energy plans to
24 site small modular reactors at federal facilities to provide
25 clean, reliable and secure energy; and

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1 WHEREAS, small modular reactors emit no carbon
2 emissions, can be installed in remote locations, are modular
3 in design, have an operating life of sixty to eighty years and
4 can be air-cooled, making them suitable for arid regions like
5 New Mexico; and

6 WHEREAS, small modular reactor designs feature below-
7 ground containment and utilize passive safety features such as
8 gravity, convection and conduction to cool the reactor in an
9 emergency; and

10 WHEREAS, small modular reactors have a significantly
11 lower capital cost than that of large conventional nuclear
12 plants and, due to their smaller size, are suitable for the
13 New Mexico electric grid; and

14 WHEREAS, the construction and operation of small modular
15 reactors would create high-quality, high-wage jobs for current
16 and future residents of New Mexico;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the energy,
19 minerals and natural resources department be requested to
20 include evaluation of the feasibility and economic benefits of
21 constructing and operating a small modular reactor in New
22 Mexico in its state energy plan; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and
24 natural resources department identify the legal and regulatory
25 requirements of constructing and operating a small modular

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1 reactor in the state and that, in cooperation with the
2 economic development department, the energy, minerals and
3 natural resources department include in the energy plan a
4 strategy to attract investment by the nuclear industry supply
5 chain; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the energy, minerals and
7 natural resources department report on its energy plan and its
8 progress in fostering small modular nuclear reactor use and
9 related manufacturing in New Mexico to the appropriate
10 committees of the legislature by December 2014; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
13 resources and the secretary of economic development.

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High Points of HM 57



- Directed to the attention of NM's Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (David Martin, Secretary).
- Requests an evaluation of the
 - Feasibility
 - Economic benefitsof constructing and operating an SMR in New Mexico.
- Evaluation will be included in the forthcoming state energy plan.
- Asks Energy Department to identify the legal and regulatory requirements of operating an SMR in New Mexico.
- Asks Energy Department to suggest a strategy for attracting investment by the nuclear energy supply chain, working in cooperation with the state's Economic Development Department.
- Report to appropriate committees and legislature by December 2014.

Why Consider SMRs in the Land of Enchantment?



- **Suitable for:**
 - arid states
 - small electric grids
 - isolated areas
- **Safety**
- **Security**
- **Reliability**
- **Economics**
- **Environmental benefits**

Who Might Be Interested in Having an SMR?



- **Military installations**
 - Kirtland AFB
 - Holloman AFB
 - Cannon AFB
 - White Sands Missile Range
- **Utilities**
- **Municipalities**
- **Rural Electric Cooperatives**
- **Consortiums**

Next Steps



- Introduce legislation that acknowledges nuclear power in energy portfolio standards.
- Support energy policies that are sound and rational.

“Drivers”:

- Existing coal-fired plants are being regulated out of existence.
- New Mexico has plentiful natural gas. Nuclear will be competing with low natural gas prices.

Contact Information



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