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By **Rob Pavey** | *Staff Writer*

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Savannah River Site's Community Reuse Organization will join other groups that oppose the Obama administration's decision to scrap plans for a permanent nuclear waste repository in Nevada's Yucca Mountain.

Rick Toole, chairman of the regional economic development group, told members today that Yucca Mountain will be the subject of a strategy paper to be discussed at a June meeting—and eventually made public.

"These are important issues that should be taken to Washington, D.C.," he said. "It will be a call to action this board would take a lead on."

In March, Energy Secretary Stephen Chu told a Congressional committee that a 27-year, \$13.5 billion effort to establish the Yucca Mountain project should be abandoned in favor of unnamed new strategies.

Yucca Mountain was being designed to accommodate radioactive material stored at 121 temporary sites in 39 states, including SRS, where high-level wastes are encased in glass and stored in steel cylinders that were to eventually be shipped elsewhere.

The site 90 miles from Las Vegas would also have housed waste from the nation's 104 currently operating commercial reactors that produce 2,000 metric tons of spent fuel annually.

The Community Reuse Organization is among many groups that have asked for a permanent solution to nuclear waste.

In a report issued Wednesday, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Institute for 21st Century Energy concluded that 90 of the nation's existing commercial reactors—which now store spent fuel on site—will have exhausted available space as early as 2010 and will need to create additional storage facilities.

"If we are not going to store used fuel and waste at Yucca Mountain, then where?" said the report, entitled, "Revisiting America's Nuclear Waste Policy."

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