



UNITED STATES SENATOR • IDAHO

# LARRY CRAIG

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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Mike Tracy (208) 342-7985  
Will Hart (202) 224-8078

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**CRAIG ANNOUNCES ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR IN IDAHO**  
**Energy Chairman Domenici supports construction at INEEL**

WASHINGTON, DC – Idaho Senator Larry Craig announced today that the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) will be the future site of an advanced nuclear reactor. The reactor project has the full support of Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Pete Domenici (R-NM) and is included as a provision in the pending energy bill before the committee, on which Craig serves.

This provision would authorize funding for the approximately \$1 billion project, including siting and construction of an advanced technology nuclear reactor at INEEL. The reactor project is included in what is referred to as “the Chairman’s mark” and is therefore more likely to be included in the final energy bill. The committee is scheduled to take action on the bill during the first two weeks of April, with consideration by the full Senate soon thereafter.

**“With his position as Chairman of the Senate Energy Committee, Senator Domenici and I have jointly developed this project to move beyond paper studies, and to begin the work of designing and building an advanced nuclear reactor at INEEL. We began a long process back in 1997 when the nuclear energy research and development budget had reached the low point of essentially being zeroed by the previous Administration. We have worked hard since then to build the country’s nuclear capabilities back up, and this provision is further commitment to that,”** said Craig. **“I thank Energy Secretary Abraham for his support in designating Idaho as DOE’s nuclear energy technology command center. That was also an important element in gaining the support of my Senate colleagues for this project. We still have a lot of work to do to make this project a reality, but this is a significant step along the way and I am excited about what the future holds.”**

According to the legislative provision, funding will begin in the next fiscal year and the reactor is to be constructed and operational at the INEEL by the year 2010. Two competing designs will be funded and one of them will be constructed. The reactor design that is selected for construction must be capable of generating both electricity and hydrogen, for use in moving the nation towards a hydrogen-based transportation economy as outlined by President Bush in his State of the Union address. Industry, university and international partners will also be part of the project. INEEL will be the lead DOE laboratory for all stages of the project.

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**CRAIG – Nuclear Reactor Release, Pg. 2**

Text of the provision is attached.

**ATTENTION TELEVISION NEWSROOMS -- Video comments will be available at the following satellite coordinates:**

**TIME: 2:00-2:15pm MOUNTAIN 1:00 -1:15pm PACIFIC  
GALAXY 3  
TRANSPONDER 7 HORIZONTAL  
DOWNLINK 3840  
AUDIO 6.2/6.8, C-BAND**

**ATTENTION RADIO NEWSROOMS – Audio comments made by Craig will be available by calling 1-800-545-1267; press 3-0-6**

You can also access the actuality through the Internet at: <http://www.senate.gov/src/radio/>.