

Ensign: Coal plants make Nevada greener

Jeff DeLong (JDELONG@RGJ.COM)

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Development of three coal-fired power plants in Nevada is justified in order to take full advantage of Nevada's potential for renewable energy generation, Sen. John Ensign said today.

Ensign, touring the Ormat geothermal plant in south Reno, said the proposed coal plants would make possible construction of power transmission lines that could also carry power generated by geothermal, wind and other renewable energy to Las Vegas.

"All of it works together to make us less reliant on energy coming from out of our state," Ensign said. "The coal plants will actually make us greener."

Ensign's position puts him at odds with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who strongly opposes construction of the coal-fired power plants.