

Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future

Panel 1: State, Local and Tribal Perspective

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WIPP Model Worked

- ◆ Only Deep-Geologic Repository Permitted
 - Permanent Disposal
 - Transuranic Radioactive Waste from:
 - » Research Activities
 - » Production of Nuclear Weapons
 - » Contact-handled Waste (96%)
 - » Remote-handled Waste (4%)
- ◆ Apply Lessons from the WIPP Project
- ◆ Couple Those Lessons with Requirements of America's Nuclear Future

Key Components of the Successful WIPP Project

- ◆ Supportive Local Communities
- ◆ Early Involvement of Interested Parties
 - Outreach to Public and Community Groups
 - Public Participation
 - DOE, EPA, NRC, National Labs, EEG, CEMRC, NMED, WTS
- ◆ Transparency and Visibility
- ◆ Technical and Non-technical Issues Identified and Addressed Early
- ◆ Collaborative Approach to Problem Solving
- ◆ Consensus Sought Early and Often
- ◆ Credibility and Trust Developed and Maintained
- ◆ Extensive Monitoring: Air, Water, Soil, People

Permitting Success

◆ EPA

- Initial Certification
- Re-certification Every 5 Years Until Closure

◆ NMED

- Hazardous Waste Permit First Issued Oct 1999
- 10-year Permit Renewal Issued Nov 2010

◆ Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- Packaging and Transportation

Project Complexity

- ◆ Consider Various Aspects of the Project—technical, social, political, economic, geographic, transportation
- ◆ Outline Scientific Parameters
- ◆ Consider Non-technical Factors
- ◆ Timeliness—Specificity in Permit
- ◆ Nuclear Safety
- ◆ Environmental Monitoring
- ◆ Legal Aspects

Base Decisions on Sound Science

- ◆ Identify Project Components
 - Needed Research
 - Research and Development Component
 - Availability of Required Scientists and Engineers
 - Technical Support
 - Scientific Parameters
 - Types of Equipment Required
- ◆ Provide Framework for Evaluation and Implement Quality Assurance

Diverse and Multi-disciplinary Personnel Required

- ◆ Physics and Chemistry
- ◆ Geology, Engineering, and Geophysics
- ◆ Mining
- ◆ Environmental Management and Monitoring
- ◆ Safety and Emergency Management
- ◆ Security
- ◆ Accounting
- ◆ Legal & Others

Clear, But Flexible, Mission

- ◆ Identify Types of Waste
- ◆ Military vs Civilian Waste
- ◆ Used Nuclear Fuel (Resource)
- ◆ High-Level Waste

Waste Disposition Paths

- ◆ Interim or Temporary Storage
- ◆ Surface Storage
- ◆ Deep Geologic Disposal Facility/Repository

A Process for Making Site Selection

- ◆ Suitability of Site for the Type of Waste/Wastes
- ◆ Availability of Highly-trained Technical and Support Staff
- ◆ Existing Infrastructure: Highways, Power, People, Emergency Response
- ◆ Sound Scientific Foundation for the Type of Disposal/Reprocessing
- ◆ Clear, But Flexible, Mission Statement
- ◆ Decisions Based on Sound Science
- ◆ Federal/State Cooperative Agreement
- ◆ Partnership Between DOE, EPA, State, NRC, National Labs, Industry, and Community