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

ents 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, NMED, WTS
- Transparency and Visibility
- Technical and Non-technical Issues Identified and Discussed Early
- Collaborative Approach to Problem Solving
- Consensus Sought Early and Often
- Credibility and Trust Developed and Maintained
- Extensive Radioactive Monitoring: Air, Water, Soil, People

Regulatory 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

Multi-disciplinary Personnel Required

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