

Nye County Summary Statement  
To the BRC Disposal Sub Committee  
July 7, 2010

Officially, Nye County is neither for nor against the Yucca Mountain (YM) repository. However, when YM was designated as the geologic repository for the nation's nuclear waste, we developed three strategic objectives that guided our "active and constructive" engagement. We believe that any community designated to host a geologic repository would have similar priorities to protect the health and safety of their citizens and an expectation of jobs and economic benefits.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act provided authority for Nye County oversight of the program. This statutory authority and funding contributed to OCRWM's successful pursuit of the License Application and to the County's independent assessment of OCRWM's technical work. As result of our oversight program we concluded that Yucca Mountain has the potential to be a technically viable repository with the potential for very significant economic development for the County and the State.

No state or tribe has expressed willingness to host either a repository site or an interim storage facility that in all likelihood would become permanent. There is little reason to believe that attitude will change unless technology and the selection process are drastically changed.

We are providing a list of ideas that we think are essential to making a repository program more attractive to a host community and state. There must be firm commitments, responsibilities to state and local government, and education and benefits that result in a successful program.

We believe that the level of acceptance for hosting the repository found in Nye County is as good as you are likely to find. Acceptance anywhere will require sufficient involvement of the general public, education and outreach to develop trust in what is being said. What is being said must then be reflected in the actions of the people responsible for execution of the program. The soft issues are important but over a twenty plus year program it will be difficult to maintain support. At some level, the national program may simply have to be "imposed."

To the more specific first question from the Sub Committee's invitation: *"Is a disposal facility (or facilities) needed under all foreseeable scenarios?"* we believe the answer to be yes.

With regard to the second question: *"If so, what are our alternative approaches for disposal?"* we observe that alternatives are already happening and fall into three (3) general categories: SNF storage at operating locations until a decision is made on what changes are needed; SNF at closed sites, which should be addressed soon; and Defense High-Level Waste which will go direct to disposal. All options will ultimately require geologic disposal.

The third question: *"What should the process to develop a US disposal system look like?"* We believe that it will be something very similar to the existing NWPA. A retrievable repository has many advantages and provides the flexibility to deal with future technological advances.

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