



Oversight of the Yucca Mountain Project Clark County Perspective

Presentation to the Blue Ribbon Commission on
America's Nuclear Future
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Clark County

Clark County Snapshot

- Clark County is 8,000 square miles in size (about the size of New Jersey)
- Clark County's population exceeds 2 million
- 70% of State population, 70% of State's economic base
- 40 million visitors annually
- 75% opposition to Yucca Mountain

Clark County's Position and Role

- Clark County Commissioners have been steadfastly opposed to the Yucca Mountain Project since 1985.
- Clark County receives an annual appropriation from Congress as an "affected unit of local government".
 - To study and comment on the DOE's program;
 - To analyze, monitor, and report on potential impacts;
 - To conduct public involvement and outreach;
 - To coordinate efforts with cities and tribes;
 - To participate in the licensing proceeding.

Community Relationships

- Importance of public perception and acceptance
- Respect for community concerns
- Acknowledgment of potential health and safety risks
- Acknowledgment of potential socioeconomic factors
- Empowerment of local government

Political Resistance

- Past history with DOE and other federal agencies
- Perception of “shrink to fit” regulations and requirements
- Risks outweigh the benefits to health, safety, and economy
- Questionable fairness of siting decision

The DOE Response

- Deny the risks
- Dismiss objections as obstructionism
- Disrespect for oversight activities and findings
- Delay or reduce funding
- Exception – the Sproat years

The NRC Response

- Concern over local confusion between DOE and NRC roles
- Clarification of NRC role through stakeholder outreach
- Consideration of stakeholder concerns
- CAB admission of most contentions for license review
- Cooperative stance with affected governments

The Congressional Response

- Questionable fairness and equity in NWPAA of 1987
- Inconsistent funding for AULGs
- Restrictions and challenges to independent oversight role
- Proposals to preempt or constrain affected governments
- Challenges to Administration decision to terminate the project

Recommendations

- Change management structure
- Focus the mission on institutional and technical challenges
- Siting guidelines which adhere to established safety and security requirements
- Respected and inclusive role for affected governments
- Siting process which uses “risk and reward” principles to benefit affected governments
- Adequate and consistent funding
- Consider improved approaches of other countries