

## **Yucca Mountain Frequently Asked Questions and Helpful Information**

### **What is Yucca Mountain-**

Yucca Mountain is the Department of Energy (DOE) proposed national geologic repository for the storage of high-level radioactive waste from national defense sources, and spent nuclear fuel from nuclear power plants. Yucca Mountain is located approximately 170 miles west of Mesquite, Nevada.

### **The City of Mesquite's Position-**

The City of Mesquite is opposed to the long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain based upon:

- Potential effects from the transportation of high-level radioactive waste near Mesquite include economic, health, security, public safety, and emergency management impacts.
- The Nevada Resort Association states that any news about an accident involving the transportation of radioactive materials could cause damage to the success of Mesquite's tourism industry.
- The city supports on-site storage of spent nuclear fuel at existing power plant locations.

### **Most Nevadans Oppose Yucca Mountain-**

A Clark County-commissioned opinion survey shows that the county's population ranks Yucca Mountain as 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> in overall importance (the county's growth being the sole variable).

State of Nevada and municipalities in Southern Nevada are on record as opposing Yucca Mountain. Additionally, Clark County is taking a lead role in representing the cities of Boulder City, Henderson, Las Vegas, Mesquite and North Las Vegas as well as, the Las Vegas Band of Paiutes and the nearby Moapa Paiute Tribe, which have opposed Yucca Mountain to the federal government.

### **Repository Capacity-**

The current plan calls for the storage of 70,000 metric tons of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. If Yucca Mountain is licensed, these waste materials would be transported across 43 states to be stored in Nevada for up to 50 years.

### **Current Status of the Yucca Mountain Project-**

In June 2008, the DOE submitted a construction and operating license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The scheduled NRC decision is expected in 2012, with the earliest achievable completion date for licensing process would be 2020.

### **What Can I Do-**

Comments and concerns about the Yucca Mountain License Application can be e-mailed to [YuccaOpinions@aol.com](mailto:YuccaOpinions@aol.com). These comments will be shared with Nevada's elected officials.

Notice of public hearings will be posted to the Clark County Web site, Nuclear Waste Program.

**To Get More Information-**

Updates about the Yucca Mountain licensing process and general information about the project can be found on the “Nuclear Waste” page of Clark County’s Web site at [www.accessclarkcounty.com](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com).

**Other Useful Links-**

- State of Nevada Nuclear Waste Project Office ([www.state.nv.us/nucwaste/index.htm](http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste/index.htm)).
- White Pine County Nuclear Waste Project Office ([www.whitepinecounty.com](http://www.whitepinecounty.com)).
- Environmental Protection Agency/Yucca Mountain ([www.epa.gov/radiation/yucca](http://www.epa.gov/radiation/yucca)).
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission ([www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)).
- Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management ([www.ocrwm.doe.gov](http://www.ocrwm.doe.gov)).
- Yucca Mountain Project ([www.ymp.gov](http://www.ymp.gov)).
- Moapa Band of Paiutes ([www.moapapaiutes.com](http://www.moapapaiutes.com)).
- Nuclear Energy Institute ([www.nei.org](http://www.nei.org)).